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P R I N C I P A L N A T I O N S
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In Two V O L U M E S.

Monasteriū V O L. II. *By Burani.*

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REVIEWS

OF THE

CHARACTERS

OF THE

PRINCIPAL NATIONS

IN

EUROPE

In Two Volumes.

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OF THE
GERMANS.

AFTER the Establishment of the western Empire, in the Person of Charlemain, Germany thro' its perpetual Intercourse with Italy, arising from the Pretensions of his Successors to the Sovereignty of that Country, received the Benefit of what Knowledge and Literature was then current in that only Spot of their Cultivation during those barbarous Times.

As Ecclesiastics possess exclusively the little Learning then extant, and well understood how to turn to the best Account the Veneration and Authority they derived from it, the Influence they bore in

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all Matters, civil as well as spiritual, was prodigious: Infomuch that it became an established Rule to consult them in every Undertaking of Importance. Thus, when William the Conqueror was meditating his Expedition against England, he thought it necessary to secure the Approbation of the most celebrated Clergymen in Europe, and of the Pope especially, who sent him a consecrated Banner; a Present which, however trifling it may now appear, was held by the Normans in as great Respect as the *Labarum* of the Roman Emperors by their Legions; and, what was more to William's Purpose, was considered by his whole Army as an unanswerable Proof of the Justice of his Cause, and an infallible Earnest of Victory. When the Crusades were first set on foot, the like Sanctions were used to authorise them; and all Christendom refounded with the zealous Exhortations of the Clergy of all Orders and Denominations, promising Success in this World, and everlasting Felicity in the next, to all who contributed, by their Purse or their Persons, to so sacred and meritorious an Enterprize.

IN

IN the Civilisation and Settlement of Germany ecclesiastical Policy had evidently the principal Management ; filling that vast Country with Colonies of Monks and Friars, and subjecting the civil Government to that of the Church, in every Place where the least Pretence was afforded to such Incroachments. A System which, notwithstanding the Introduction of Protestantism, and the great Alterations that have ensued from that Cause, yet strongly maintains its Ground ; and tho' invaded in many considerable Parts, like a Tree whose Trunk and capital Branches still remain untouched, it bids fair to last and flourish, and seems not in the least apprehensive of long seeing the Axe laid to its Root.

THE Duration of such an extraordinary and complex a Constitution as that of the German Empire, is entirely owing to the Disposition and Temper of the Natives ; a Race of Mortals peculiarly gifted with that Moderation which can rest satisfied with any Plan that is found any ways tolerable ; and is not prone to make fre-

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quent Experiments of new ones, lest a Change might happen for the worse.

HENCE, tho' they have deviated in some Measure from this Maxim in religious Matters, which, however, is easily accounted for, when the Motives, the Times, and the Actors are considered, yet the Spirit of those Institutions that took place at the primitive Formation of the Germanic Body, still subsists and uniformly presides in all Affairs of Moment.

IN the Days of the Emperor Maximilian, about the Beginning of the sixteenth Century, Learning, Arts, and Commerce flourished in Germany more than any where in Europe, except in Italy, from whence they were communicated: And in the Course of the following Age, at that Period which preceded the Breaking out of the fatal thirty Years War that involved it in universal Bloodshed and Desolation, Germany had attained to so remarkable a Degree of Happiness and Splendor, that Cluverius, who wrote about that Time, begins his Account of it by asserting,

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ing, as a known indisputable Fact, that from the Greatness and Magnificence of its many Cities, and the Arts of Agriculture and Fertilisation, it was a Country comparable to Italy, and preferable to any other in Europe.

THIS State of Prosperity was owing to the happy Liberty of Conscience which prevailed from the Reign of Charles the fifth to that of Ferdinand the second; whose Bigotry and Ambition equally contributed to plunge his Country into those Scenes of Misery that almost totally ruined it. During the Course of that terrible War the fairest Provinces of that unhappy Empire were laid waste alternately by Friend and Foe; the most beautiful Edifices were destroyed; the richest Towns and Cities plundered, burned, and levelled to the Ground; and the most horrid Massacres committed without the least Mercy shewn on either Side.

THESE dreadful Disorders lasted 'till the Pacification of Westphaly, which is in Germany, like the Revolution in England,

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land, the grand Epocha from whence they date the final Settlement of their Constitution. Since that auspicious Event they have laboured successfully in repairing the Disasters of their Country; in restoring it to its former Situation, and introducing the Improvements of other Nations.

SUCH, in general, has been the Fortune of the Germans: A People whose Character deserves as much Attention and Study as that of any Nation whatever; and who, tho' less renowned for Brilliancy of Genius and Capacity than some of their Southern Neighbours, yet have an ample Stock of those Abilities that are useful and essential in the more important Concerns of Life and political Society.

TACITUS, in his Account of their Ancestors, seems to undervalue their intellectual Merit; but this was at a Time when they were absolute Strangers to all Manner of Civilisation, and deserved the Stile of Barbarians in its fullest Latitude. Yet even in this rude State of untutored, unpolished Nature, they discovered a Vein

of Judgment and good Sense in many of thier Transactions, both among themselves and with others, the Romans especially, that fully shewed their native Endowments wanted only Cultivation to shine with distinguished Lustre. With all their Deficiencies they were still a Match for that ambitious People; and remain the most illustrious Proof History furnishes, that Firmness of Mind, and Perseverance in struggling with Difficulties, are alone sufficient to render a Nation invincible, and equal in real Strength to those who are possessed of all the Refinements and Advantages of a polite and enlightened Education.

A FRENCH Writer, Bouhours, has thought proper to deny them Admittance in the Province of Wit. In this he is seconded by another of his Countrymen, Dacier, who in the Preface to his Translation of Horace, gives the like Exclusion to all the Nations lying North of France, the English themselves not excepted; among whom particularly he singles out Dryden, as an Object of his Censure, and

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consequently as a Proof of the Justness of his Severity. But Bouhours was no better acquainted with the Merit of the Germans, than Dacier with that of the English; and the Impertinence of both their Criticisms serves only to expose their own Ignorance of the Subjects they took upon them to be Judges of. Bouhours was little more than a mere Phraseologist in his own Language; and Dacier should have confined himself to the Task of commenting and translating; for the latter of which, however, he was by no Means eminently qualified, his French being far from elegant, and falling infinitely short of that of Tarteron, and Sanadon, whose Versions of Horace are greatly superior to his.

WHEN uninformed Individuals venture to obtrude on the Public their rash Decisions on the Capacity and Talents of whole Nations, they ought to be exposed to the World in their genuine Colours; lest the Celebrity of a Name often obtained with very little solid Desert, should impose on the Generality of Mankind, too willing to

to accept of Information without inquiring into the Character of those from whom they receive it ; who, tho' Persons perhaps of real Merit in those Branches they have made the principal Business of their Lives, and on which their Reputation may be reasonably founded, not unfrequently betray the most ignominious Barrenness of Understanding and Knowledge, when they presume to step out of that long beaten Track to which their Minds, by constant Use and Habit, are become so intirely fashioned, as to lose all Aptitude to treat of other Matters with Discernment and Propriety.

THE Germans, ever since the Extinction of their civil Feuds, a Century ago, have made a very conspicuous Figure in the Republic of Letters ; and of late Years have considerably improved their own Tongue, which is bold, manly, and copious. In pastoral, and Epic Poetry they have produced Compositions of prime Merit. The Names of a Brocks, a Kleist, a Klopstock, and a Gessner, are sufficient to rescue them from an Imputation of a Defect

Defect of Genius ; and the Translation of their Works into other Languages is an incontestible Proof of their superior Excellence.

THE Force and Energy of their Works in Prose is universally allowed ; and in particular the emphatical Diction of their Prayers and Sermons ; a Circumstance which even some Frenchmen of Note, well conversant in their Language, have been impartial enough to acknowledge ; and what was still more, have confessed that the Stile and Expressions of their own were not equal in Point of Weight and Sublimity to those of the German.

SONNETS, indeed Madrigals, and Epigrams Germany has hitherto made a very small Progress in. But this they need not lament, when we reflect how little such Compositions contribute to a great Reputation.

NEITHER have they shone in the Drama ; which is not to be wondered at, when we consider the slight Encouragement it has met with ; and the Preference still given
to

to the French Language in most, or all, of their Courts; where theatrical Diversions are almost constantly borrowed from that Nation, and where, with very few Exceptions, an Opinion prevails that whatever relates to Festivity and polite Recreations is best understood by the Natives of that Country.

It has often been asserted, by the French especially, that the Germans are slow in the Apprehension of Things, and heavy in their Proceedings. To which it may be answered, that they are usually very solicitous thoroughly to comprehend what they go about; and more intent to secure Success by Labour and Diligence, than willing to risk it by Hurry and Precipitation. This is the natural Result of their phlegmatic Disposition; a State of Mind that holds the Passions in a happy Subjection to Reason and Reflection; by substituting Coolness and Serenity of Judgment in the Room of Impetuosity and Fire of Imagination; the Suppression of these making way for that even Temperature of the Soul which enjoys all its
various

various Sensations with Calmness, and is not easily moved from its Poise.

THIS Habit of Deliberation renders the Germans less liable to be actuated by Violence in their Resolutions, than many of those who boast of the Superiority of their Councils. Hence proceeds that Moderation which preserves the Protestants from being held in as much Hatred and Abhorrence in the Romish Parts of Germany, as in the other Countries of that Communion. Most of their religious Wars were much less prompted by inconsiderate Zeal than political Motives; as plainly appeared at the Treaty which terminated their domestic Troubles, by the Facility with which all spiritual Matters were accommodated,

WHATEVER the Difference of Opinion may be touching their intellectual Endowments, their moral Qualities have never been called in Question. Their Benevolence, Friendliness, and Hospitality are well known; and their Candour and Sincerity are almost proverbial. Their Manners

ners are plain, simple, and little altered from what they were Ages ago: And if they have adopted many foreign Usages, yet they have had an Eye to Propriety in their Imitation, and have not been the servile Copiers of the French in their needless Refinements, nor of the Italians in their false Notions of Grandeur. Thus their Tables have an ample Sufficiency, without endless Niceties; and their Ways of Living are generous, without being profuse. Tho' Lovers of State, yet their Princes indulge in the most friendly and frequent Intercourse; and never permit an ill-grounded Pride to obstruct the Pleasures of good Fellowship and agreeable Society. Very different herein from those of Italy; among whom an Approximation is almost impracticable, from the preposterous Difficulties they find in adjusting the Ceremonial to be observed between them.

THIS is the more remarkable, as the German Grandees are of all People the most infatuated with their Birth, tenacious of the Prerogatives annexed to it,
and

and desirous of augmenting them by an Accession of titular Honours.

SOME of their principal Sovereigns have carried these ambitious Prepossessions so far, as never to rest 'till by an Equivalence of nominal Dignity, they had raised themselves to the Level of those, of whose Superiority in Respect of Rank, they could not bear the most trifling Indication. Thus Frederic, the first King of Prussia, expended immense Sums to obtain that Appellation; the Want of which had obliged him to submit to the Refusal of an armed Chair, in his Interview with our William the third. Inspired with the same high Mindedness, the House of Saxony ruined itself for the empty Name of Kings of Poland; and the House of Bavaria lately did the same for that of Emperor.

AN equal Spirit animates them in the Prosecution of courtly Splendor. Hence, not to be wanting in any of those Appendages of Brilliancy that were formerly known only in the capital Courts of Europe,

Europe, Orders of Knighthood have been instituted with the most costly Solemnities. Brandenburg devised the black, and Saxony the white Eagle: And Foundations of the same Kind have been made by other Princes of the Empire; who saw how greatly their respective Subjects were delighted with these Badges of imaginary Distinction, and were determined to gratify them, as they could do it at so cheap a Rate.

FROM these Causes Germany, beyond all Countries, abounds in Stars and Ribbands; the Wearers of which are industrious in seizing every Opportunity to display them with Eclat; wherein they are fully abetted by their Masters, who are immeasurably fond of promoting whatever has a Tendency to Pomp and Ceremony.

THE above-mentioned Frederic of Prussia was a Hero in these Feats; and spent the greatest Part of his Reign in a Round of Magnificence hardly inferior to that of Lewis the fourteenth of France
his

his Coteremporary, whom he most punctiliously emulated in all the Departments of Court Grandeur. His Guards and Retinue were clad, his Palaces furnished, and his Household maintained with more Cost and Sumptuousness than those of any Monarch, except the French. Happily, however, at the same Time, imitating him no less in the more laudable Parts of his Character; by encouraging the polite Arts, and establishing Schools and Academies for their Cultivation, and by providing liberally for the Education of young Gentlemen.

THIS Rage for Splendour reigns alike in all the German Courts; from those of which the Heads are qualified with the Title of Majesty, to those who have assumed the Stile of Highness, the lowest that is used to any Kind of Sovereign in this Country of Kings and Princes: Most of whom seem to vie with each other in a Propensity to Expensiveness, and to think that Grandeur of Appearance constitutes Dignity.

IN order to inhance the Worth of this exterior Glare, they have given it an Air
of

of Importance; by subjecting it to a solemn Ritual, in the Observance of which they are scrupulous to an amazing Degree.

THIS ceremonious Spirit presides over all their Affairs, and even their Diversions are conducted by it, in a manner which no People less cool and phlegmatic could relish; but which, among them, is the very Soul of their Pastimes, as well as of other Transactions.

THUS the minute Business and Forms of a Court, which in England and in France are looked upon as rather tedious and fulsome, are, on the contrary, a most pleasing Occupation in Germany; where every petty Sovereign is charmed with the Solitude and Exactness with which his Attendants perform the various Parts assigned them in the little Sphere both he and they have to act in. Small as it may be, there is not the least Omission of any of those Personages usually exhibited in the royal Stages of the principal Courts in Europe; every Office appertaining to which, from a Lord High Steward to the lowest Me-

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nial, is carefully represented ; and none of the most trifling Circumstances forgotten that amuse the shallow-minded Spectators, and contribute to keep up the Farce and Pedantry of State.

NEITHER are they less ingenious in contriving those Species of Recreations that consist in Shews and Pageantry, of which there is a greater Variety in Germany than in all the rest of Europe ; owing to that irresistible Proneness to Parade, and Ostentation of their Rank and Quality, which the Regulations attending these pompous Festivals always afford them ample Room to indulge in.

SUCH are the favourite Pursuits to which Numbers of the German Potentates, if such a Term be applicable to many of them, dedicate no very small a Portion of their Time, and no inconsiderable Share of their Revenues, while in Peace ; and even when engaged in War, some of them have rather chosen to diminish the Number of their Troops, than renounce this fatal Vanity of exterior Greatness, however detrimental

mental it might prove to their Affairs. Thus when the Archduke Charles, afterwards Emperor, was on his Progress to the Court of England, whose Armies and Fleets were waiting to convey him to Spain, (his Succession to the Crown of which Monarchy, our Treasures were lavished in asserting) the Expences of the Equipage and Retinue he travelled with, were such as would have maintained an Army. In like Manner, the first King of Prussia, instead of employing his large Revenues in putting himself in a Posture of Defence, on the Approach of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden, of whose violent Measures he had but too much Reason to be apprehensive, still continued his usual Course of costly and needless Magnificence; exposing himself thereby to the Insults and haughty Treatment of that dangerous Neighbour, on whose rapid Successes common Prudence might have taught him to keep a watchful Eye.

THIS is no Misrepresentation of the Conduct of these two Princes; and Germany has afforded many Instances of others,

whose Carelessness and Indolence in their most material Concerns, is hardly credible; and who seem not to have felt the least Scruple or Remorse for squandering, in the most useless, unaccountable Manner, the far noblest Part of their Income; leading, at the same Time, a Life of the utmost Listlessness and Dissipation; unmindful, and almost ignorant of the State of their Affairs, and the Situation of their Subjects; wholly attentive to the most frivolous Amusements; and only careful to reward those who were instrumental in procuring them.

THERE was a Time when Literature flourished uncommonly among the Princes of Germany, more, indeed, than among Persons of their Rank in any other Country in Christendom. This was during the Period which lasted from the Commencement of the Reformation, till their civil Wars in the last Century. As Learning became the Mode among the Great, it naturally met with the highest Rewards and Encouragements; the prime Ministers of those Days were generally Men of eminent

nent Parts, and both they and their Masters were equally solicitous to facilitate and promote the Advancement of Letters and Sciences. Hence the Foundation of so many Colleges, Professorships, and Libraries, in the Protestant Districts especially; the Spoils of which latter, particularly of the famous one at Heidelberg, were deemed Presents worthy of the See of Rome itself, when through the Chance of War, they fell into the Hands of the Romish Party.

SINCE that Æra, a different Spirit has prevailed; and an Application to Study is far from being the ruling Passion of most of the German Princes, who, though generally not deficient in a Competency of Erudition, have much remitted from that Ardour in the Pursuit of it, for which many of their Predecessors were so noted.

It is necessary, however, to except several whose laudable Addiction to literary Occupations and useful Arts, ought to be recorded, as an Incitement to their Equals to follow Precedents so reputable and illustrious.

lustrious. Such was the celebrated Ulric, Duke of Wolfenbuttel, who composed Numbers of ingenious Pieces in his native German, written in a most elegant and masterly Stile. Such was a late Margrave of Baden, whose Hours of Relaxation were spent in the Attainment of almost every Branch of Knowledge conducive to public Utility; and such also have been divers others, who have shewn themselves as sedulous and exemplary in the Improvement of their Minds, as in the more important Duties of their Station. But an Instance may be cited which eclipses all Comparison, that of the present King of Prussia; a Man whose transcendent Abilities in Peace and War are an Object no less of Envy and Terror, than of Admiration; and to whose Merits, therefore, complete Justice will be done only by Posterity.

As few Things, however censurable, are utterly devoid of some Advantage, the universal Turn for Pleasure and Diversions that prevails throughout the German Courts, has been productive of a Spirit of

Affability

Affability and Condescension that renders them highly agreeable to Strangers and Visitors ; the friendly Treatment of whom, if their Profession and Circumstances be decent and genteel, exceeds any Thing of the Kind in all Europe ; and reflects the more Honour on the German Princes and Nobles, as they are accused, and not without Reason, of valuing themselves on their Condition and Quality beyond those of all other Nations.

THE Absurdity of this Prejudice is certainly carried to a greater Height in Germany than any where else ; so far, that if a Person of princely Birth marries a Lady of a Rank inferior to that of a Countess, he gives her his left Hand in the nuptial Ceremony ; and the Intervention of the Emperor is necessary to enable their Posterity to succeed to their Honours and Estates ; nor can this be done but by formally creating her a Princess of the Empire ; otherwise the Match remains disgraceful, and the Wife is not even allowed to bear the Husband's Name.

THE same Sort of Pride actuates their very Ecclesiastics in a Degree unknown in any other Part of Christendom. In most of, if not all, their episcopal Chapters, and many others, both Male and Female, Proofs of Nobility, and that of no recent Date, are required before Admission. There is even an Abbey of Monks, where the like Qualifications are insisted upon from such as are desirous of becoming Members of the Fraternity; and few of their great Convents, either of Men or Women, will accept of an Abbot, or Abbess, the Nobleness of whose Pedigree is not well ascertained.

THIS Haughtiness of Blood often occasions very serious Altercations, and is not unfrequently so fierce and violent, that on public Solemnities, Instances have been known of Rivals breaking through all Decorum, and disturbing the Peace of the Assembly, sooner than make the most trifling Concession on either Side. Sometimes it has happened that superior bodily Strength has determined the Contest. Thus a Count of Weilburg took Precedence, by
main

main Force, of a Prince of Taxis, whose Title, though loftier, was inferior in Point of Antiquity. At other Times, the Decision has not been so brief, and Competitors have withdrawn to settle Matters with the Point of their Swords.

THIS Thirst of Pre-eminence accompanies the German Nobility and Gentry where-ever they go; and often engages those among them who are possessed of Riches, and decorated with the Insignia of some of their knightly Orders, to solicit such Employments as will lead them into the different Courts of Europe; where they are very fond of parading on political Pretexts, when they can exhibit themselves as Persons of Importance.

No small Tincture of this vain Glory is perceptible in some of their Princes and Sovereigns, who not seldom indulge a needless and expensive Curiosity in travelling, to scarce any other obvious Purpose, and probably with no other Intent, than to make an empty Display of their Equipage and Retinue.

NOTWITH-

NOTWITHSTANDING these erroneous Notions in some Parts of their Conduct, and those Failures in their Judgment of Things, of which every Country has its unhappy Share; it must be allowed that Germany is the largest Field in Europe for an active Genius to move in. The Number of Courts and States where Employment is to be found, and where Men of Capacity are wanted, opens a noble Prospect to an enterprising Spirit, conscious of its Abilities, and of the Probability of succeeding with Perseverance and Application. As each of these Courts places itself on a Level of Emulation with every other, whoever can forward their respective Views, is sure of a Welcome; and as, according to the predominant Schemes of those who govern, and the Diversity of their Pursuits and Designs, an adequate Proportion of Talents, equal to the Execution of them, is required, they who possess them must necessarily be procured. Hence Germany abounds with Persons of Excellence in all those Accomplishments

plishments that qualify a Man for civil Government, and military Command; or that enable him to acquit himself with Dexterity of all those Commissions, which the Multiplicity of Emergencies incident to a Court, is hourly giving Birth to.

BEFORE the two last Wars, domestic Leisure and Security had rendered Germany a Scene of the most extensive Encouragement to Men of Ingenuity in all Denominations. Those Arts in particular, that conduce to Magnificence and Embellishment, met in no Country with a more generous Support and Recompence. In that Season of Tranquility, as People were under no Apprehensions of internal Hostilities and Devastations, they were able to give full Scope to their Propensity to Splendor. Thus Architecture, Painting and Sculpture, were eminently patronized; and a prodigious Number of Palaces and noble Edifices erected, and most sumptuously adorned during that happy Period which lasted from the Cessation of their civil Troubles in the last Age, to the Demise of the Emperor Charles the Sixth.

THERE

THERE was hardly any of their Princes, either secular or ecclesiastical, who did not lay out very considerable Sums in the Article of Building, and all its numerous Concomitances. Many of them carried their Passion for that then prevalent Mode beyond all Bounds of Moderation, and almost Credibility, when we consider the little Proportion between the Finances and the Undertakings of some of them.

NEXT to Lewis the Fourteenth of France, who, to do him Justice, was an illustrious Patron of all the fine Arts, no Princes in his Time were more deserving of Applause, in that Respect, than those of Germany. Italy, Spain, and even England, which could best afford it, imitated him but feebly; while the Sovereigns of Brandenburg, Saxony, Bavaria, and the Palatinate, the last especially, by Examples of the most princely Munificence to Artists of Merit, were animating their Countrymen to give them the most liberal Countenance and Reception.

THE

THE German Princes live entirely *suo quisque More*, each after his own Way; and excepting the Spirit of Ceremoniousness, in which they all agree, seem not in the least inclined to make any particular Sovereign belonging to the Germanic Body, the peculiar Object of their Imitation, how great soever his Reputation or Power; this would be an Avowal of his national Pre-eminence, and a Sort of tacit Homage to it; Concessions which their Pride and Loftiness of Soul render them industrious to avoid.

THE Models, therefore, they copy after, are usually fetched from other Countries; and they are very desirous of being thought the Introducers of any Improvements derived from Abroad. But even in these, they are studious to strike out such Marks of Disparity from the original Pattern, as may sufficiently shew them to be chiefly guided by their own Notions, and to stand in no Need of the Produce of foreign Invention; a Talent of which the Germans are

are fully persuaded they possess a more copious Measure than any other People whatever.

THE Consequence of this Frame of Mind is a remarkable Variety in the Humours and Manners of their different Courts, which are very far from reflecting the Image of each other, and in many Instances affect as little a Resemblance as possible.

THE same Spirit of Independance, either of Example or Influence, is the Rule of their private, as well as of their public Conduct. They steer their own Course, regardless of that pursued by others; and herein their Fancies, their Whims, and their Passions, are principally consulted; in the Gratification of which, they defy all Censure, and scruple no Expence.

THUS one of them filled his Household with Female Attendants, whose Business it became to perform the Task of the Men. Another turned his Residence into a Magazine

gazine of musical Instruments, and bestowed Places and Preferments on those who devised the most curious in their Kind; and of one it is recorded, that he made it a standing Regulation, to oblige those to whom he granted an Audience, to partake of a stated Quantity of Liquor with him, before they proceeded to Business.

A CUSTOM similar to this last is pretty current in most of the German Courts; where a Visitor is initiated, and in a Manner purchases his Freedom, by submitting to drink till he has lost the Use of his Reason. This Practice, however, was more prevalent formerly than at present, especially at the Palatine Court, when it resided at Heidelberg; where Bacchanalian Meetings were often held on the Spot adjoining to the famous Tun; the Presence of which, it seems, was calculated to inspire Ideas of that Tendency.

BUT though Frolicks of this Sort are not so frequent as of Yore, they are even now far from being obsolete, in the ecclesiastical Courts particularly; from which,
while

while Gallantry must, by the Rules of Decorum, be banished; Table-Debauchery is so little excluded, that it is carried nowhere else to a more shameful Excess.

THIS Habit of hard Drinking is a Remains of that ancient Etiquette, if one may so term it, which subsisted in the Days of their Ancestors, at the Time they were so manfully resisting the Invasions of the Romans. As the utmost Frankness and Candour, and a rooted Abhorrence of all Manner of Dissimulation constituted their national Character, and were esteemed the noblest Qualities in human Nature, they took all Precautions to perpetuate such a Spirit, by putting it out of every one's Power to swerve from it in any essential Matters. For this Reason, in their public Assemblies, whatever related to State-Affairs was reserved to be debated after their Souls were elevated with Liquor to a Pitch of Boldness and Resolution, that would scorn to admit of any low-minded Thought, any of those timid, feeble Ideas, which, in their sober Hours, have sometimes too much Ascendancy over

Persons

Persons of discreet and circumspectful Dispositions; and engage them to conceal their real Sentiments on Subjects whereon it behoves them to be open, and explicit in the fullest Degree, and to exhibit their Minds without the least Disguise.

BUT in Process of Time, the primitive Intent and Motive of this Indulgence were forgotten; and an Institution which, at first, had been attended with the most salutary Consequences, was, at last, converted into the most ignominious Abuse, and became deservedly a Reproach to the German Nation, from whence it spread to all their northern Neighbours.

THESE scandalous Computations were grown so customary in the last Century, that even foreign Ministers and Ambassadors were not exempted from paying Tribute to this fashionable Infamy at their public Reception, as was remarkably experienced by two of our Countrymen, the Lord Leicester, in his Embassy from Charles the First to the Court of Denmark, and Sir William Temple, when he was sent by

Charles the Second to negotiate a Treaty with the Bishop of Munster. Notwithstanding they were both Men of noted Sobriety, and eminent for their Wisdom and philosophical Disposition, no Regard was had to that Part of their Character on this Occasion ; and they were obliged to comply with the established Rules in their fullest Extent.

THE secular Courts in Germany, though not wholly averse to these Practices, are rather addicted to Gallantry ; more indeed, as some have asserted, to that refined Species which is known by the Name of Platonism, than to the less pure and innocent. The same has been said in Extenuation of Cicisbeism in Italy ; but if any Credit is to be given to the concurring Testimony of discerning, impartial Observators, these Pretences have no Manner of Foundation.

THE Court of Dresden, under the Reign of Frederic Augustus, King of Poland, was the Center of the very Reverse of platonic Passions ; and few, if any, European Princes

Princes were ever so notorious in the Variety of their Amours. It must however be confessed, that he carried them on with an Air of Delicacy and Politeness, that threw a Veil over his Irregularities, and rendered them less glaring and indecent. The Persons whom he distinguished by his several Attachments, were all of them as remarkable for their Accomplishments of Mind, as for their Beauty. His principal Favourite, the Countess of Konigsmark, was a Woman of the sublimest Understanding, and possessed of so many amiable Qualities, that her personal Charms were the least valuable of her numerous Attractions.

HIS Conduct and Behaviour with the fair Sex was, in all Respects, accompanied with a Decorum and Decency, that shewed he was far from being indiscriminate in the Choice of Women, and abandoned to the blind Impulse of unsentimental Passion.

UPON the whole, the Failings of this celebrated Prince were redeemed with his Virtues. His Mildness of Temper, his

affable Usage of all who approached him, his Liberality to his Courtiers, his generous Attention to the indigent Youth of genteel Families, for whose Education and Support he made a noble academical Foundation, his extensive Humanity to such of his Subjects as had felt the Calamities of War, these, and many other Deeds of Benignity and Munificence, greatly atone for his Foibles. Happy it were if all the Princes who are guilty of these, would also prove as solicitous as he was to counterbalance them by a Parity of meritorious Actions.

FREDERIC Augustus could boast of counting among his Subjects the Prime of all the German Nation. The Inhabitants of Saxony have long been esteemed the most sensible and ingenious of all their Countrymen; their Capacity is so well known, and so universally avowed, that an Individual of that Part of Germany stands a fairer Chance for Promotion on that Account; and is frequently indebted for his Success over Competitors to that Cause alone;

alone; so prevalent is the Opinion entertained by the Public in their Favour.

THE Saxons are so remarkable for natural Courage, as well as for bodily Stoutness and Activity, that the great Gustavus Adolphus enjoined his Generals to recruit his Armies principally from Saxony. Beside the Qualities Nature has given them for the Field, they are no less noted for those that fit a Man for the most arduous Undertakings, either studious or political. They are indefatigable in their Pursuits, and display the most laborious Perseverance in their Application to Arts and Sciences, wherein they have produced the most illustrious Names of all Germany. Neither are they inferior in the Accomplishments and Talents that secure an agreeable Reception, and prove so effectually instrumental to Advancement in Courts; a Stage whereon they usually act their Parts to Admiration; as they are compleat Masters of that Suppleness and Condescension of Behaviour, which gains Partisans and Well-wishers, and of that Subtlety and Penetration which turns every Circumstance

to Advantage. To this may be added a Vivacity of Disposition, that peculiarises them from all the rest of the Germans, and renders their Society highly acceptable ; and by circulating a Spirit of Pleasure, affords them Occasions of manifesting their Wit and Readiness of Thought, wherein they incomparably excel their Countrymen, as they do also in the secondary Branches of polite Endowments ; such as a Propriety of Taste for Magnificence in their Apparel, Furniture, Diversions, and every other Department of Expence ; in all which they possess the valuable Secret of uniting Splendor with Oeconomy.

THE Saxon Women yield in nothing to the Men, and are equally accounted the first in Germany. Their Persons are so superiorly charming and preferable in whatever can recommend them to the Notice of Mankind, that the German Youth often visit Saxony in quest of Companions for Life. Exclusive of their Beauty and Comeliness of Appearance, they are brought up in the Knowledge of all those Arts,
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both useful and ornamental, that are so brilliant an Addition to their native Attractions. But what chiefly inhances their Value, and gives it Reality and Duration, is a Sweetness of Temper and a Festivity of Disposition, that never fail to endear them on a very slight Acquaintance. To crown all, they generally become Patterns of conjugal Tendernefs and Fidelity; and as their natural Franknefs sets them above Diffimulation, they love to the last, when once they have bestowed their Affections.

THE personal Charms for which the Saxon Women are so justly celebrated, are likewise no small Inducements for the Votaries of Gallantry to give them unrivalled Preference in Quality of Mistresses, a Scene of Life for which such of them as embrace it, are perfectly calculated; as they excel in the Allurements of Dress and Decoration, are usually skilful in Music; and from their innate Liveliness, extremely addicted to all the gay Kind of Amusements; to say nothing of their Facetiousness and Ingenuity, of which most

Saxon Women have no trifling Share ; as they are uncommonly careful to improve their Minds by Reading and instructive Conversation.

FAR different from this Character is that of the Women in most other Parts of Germany, particularly of the Austrian, who seem to form no imperfect Contrast to them in most Things. Notwithstanding the Advantages of Size and Make, their Looks and Features, though not unsightly, betray a Vacancy of that Life and Spirit, without which, Beauty is uninteresting ; and like a meer Picture, becomes utterly void of that Indication of Sensibility, which alone can awaken a Delicacy of Feeling. As their Education is conducted by the Rules of the grossest Superstition, and they are taught little else than set Forms of Devotion, they arrive to Years of Maturity uninstructed in the Use of their Reason, and usually continue profoundly ignorant the Remainder of their Days, which are spent, or rather loitered away in Apathy and Indolence. Having learned none of the ingenious Methods of making Time
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fit lightly, their Hours of Leisure, which their Inactivity swells to a large Amount, are heavy and oppressive; and from their Want of almost all Sort of Knowledge, the Subjects of their Discourse are poor and insipid to a wretched Degree. So irksome, even to themselves, is that Kind of Society which consists in a Communication of Thoughts, that Dress and Diversion are the only Refuge from the Tedioufness which hangs over the general Tenour of their Lives. But whatever they attempt in either shews an Absence of all Taste and Elegance; such as one may naturally expect from their Poverty, and Barrenness of Fancy; and they are obliged to borrow from Abroad all that is tolerable in these two Articles.

THE principal Happiness of the Austrian Ladies of Fashion, consists in ruminating on the Dignity of their Birth and Families; the Antiquity of their Race; the Rank they hold; the Respect attached to it; and the Prerogatives they enjoy over the inferior Classes, whom they treat with the utmost Superciliousness, and hold in
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the most unreasonable Contempt. In the mean while, their domestic Affairs are condemned to the most unaccountable Neglect. They dwell at Home, careless of what passes there, and suffer Disorder and Confusion to prevail without feeling the least Disquietude. Great Frequenters of Churches, their Piety is made up of the strictest Conformity in all the Exteriors of Religion. They profess the most boundless Belief, or rather Credulousness, in all the silly Legends with which their Treatises of Devotion are filled; and these are the only Books they ever read. The Coldness of their Constitution occasions a Species of regulated Gallantry, which is rather the Effect of an Opinion that it is an Appendage of high Life, than the Result of their natural Inclination.

To make up, however, in some Sort, for the Severity of these Strictures, it must also be allowed that the Austrian Women are endowed with a great Fund of Sincerity and Candour; and though too much on the Reserve, and prone to keep an unnecessary Distance, are yet capable of the truest

truest Attachment, and always warm and zealous in the Cause of those whom they have admitted to their Friendship. A peculiar Excellence in their Character, is, that they are utter Strangers to Coquetry, and are frank and ingenuous in all Matters of Love ; wherein, when they do engage, their Disinterestedness and Generosity are conspicuous ; and, in a great Measure, supply the Defect of the sprightly and entertaining Qualifications.

THE People of Austria are as little noted for Eminence of Parts as any in all Germany. A Vein of Heaviness and Torpidity is visible in all Classes, and influences their most trivial Proceedings. In no Country whatever will a Traveller find less Resources for Improvement or Pleasure among the Natives. The lower Tribes are so gross and vulgar, that they may well pass among the Germans, as the Bæotians did among the ancient Greeks, for the dullest of all their Countrymen. Their principal Merit is Simplicity and Downrightness ; and it were Injustice not to allow them an abundant Measure of that

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Fides Germanica et Sincera, that staunch German Honesty, to use the Expression of a celebrated Prince of the Empire to an English Ambassador, for which the Generality of their Countrymen are so deservedly renowned.

THE higher Ranks are almost impracticable, unless they are addressed by Persons whose Titles are adequate to their own. But none are esteemed such at Vienna, unless they are conferred by the Emperor; who being reputed the first Sovereign in Christendom, is therefore considered by them as the prime Fountain of Honour and Dignity throughout the whole World. Elated by these Motives they look upon themselves as superior to the Nobility of all other Countries, and hold in a secondary Light the Distinctions proceeding from foreign Courts.

THE Pride of some Nations who deem themselves preferable to others, and equal to the most illustrious, has no unsolid Foundations; and though Vain-Glory deserves Rebuke, and Modesty becomes Nations

tions as well as Individuals, yet when famous Names are cited, and celebrated Achievements in the Annals of Peace and War produced in Support of such Pretensions, the World is ready enough to excuse a little Excess of Boasting and Presumption. But when a People utterly void of any of those conspicuous Qualities on which the Fame and Reputation of a Country depend, is guilty of the absurd Confidence to aspire at the Supremacy of Renown, and to believe themselves respectable beyond all others, then, indeed, they fully authorise the severest Confutation of their Impertinence.

SUCH is precisely the Case of the Austrians, whose Arrogance in this Particular is unsufferable; and who, with all their Haughtiness, have no other Right to the Pre-eminence they claim, than that of a Multitude of sonorous Titles, with which the Bearers are more elevated here than in any other Part of Europe; seeming absolutely to forget by what Means they are often procured, and on whom they are as often bestowed; and provided they can be
obtained,

obtained, think themselves justifiable in the Opinion they immediately assume of their personal Merit and Importance, and in undervaluing all who are not distinguished by some nominal Decoration. Though such an Infatuation is not unknown in other European Courts, it reigns with double Force at the Imperial; where an untitled Man is a Being inadmissible among the Great, and cannot challenge the Appellation of a Person of Fashion.

THE Grandeur of the Austrian Courtiers consists in the most sumptuous Extravagance in their Tables, Equipages, and Retinue; in which they are faithfully copied by their Inferiors, who seldom, indeed, can discover in the whole of their Conduct, any other Subject of Imitation; and who, like their Superiors, seem insensible of any other Method of recommending themselves to public Notice.

THIS is no exaggerated Account of the Notions and Manners of such as compose the genteel Classes; in whom an aspiring Temper, and a restless Thirst of titular Aggrandisement,

grandisement, is more diffusive than among their Equals in any other Country.

IT would be an inequitable Omission however, to pass over unnoticed the Merits of their military List; a Body of Men who have given so many signal Proofs of the most heroic Courage; and whose Aptitude for War yields to that of no People whatever. Yet even here, they have been generally but the Instruments of more able Artists. Nature seems to have formed them rather for Soldiers, than Commanders; and the House of Austria has mostly owed its Advancement, its Grandeur, and its Preservation, to other Abilities than were found in its native Soil.

BUT such is the Prejudice of the Austrians in Favour of their own Character, that it would be dangerous to mention these Truths among them. Persuaded as they are of the Greatness of their Genius and Capacity, they would fain ascribe to these the Rise and Power of their Sovereigns: While, at the same Time, the Concurrence of fortunate Accidents is so well

well known throughout the political World, to have been the real Basis of the Austrian Greatness, that a celebrated Painter, so long since as the Days of Charles the Fifth, represented Fortune and Hymen bringing to that Prince the Crowns and armorial Ensigns of those Countries, of which his Family had gained the Possession by lucky Casualties, or by Marriage ; to which last and principal Cause of its Prosperity is due the famous Distich.

*Bella gerant alii, tu felix Austria Nube ;
Nam quae Mars aliis, dat tibi Regna Venus.*

Let others wage War ; thou, happy Austria, marry ; for Realms, which Mars gives to others, Venus bestows on thee.

WHEN it is said that Vienna abounds with Princes, Counts, and Barons, little more remains to be told ; and they whose Motives for visiting foreign Countries, are either Instruction or Curiosity, will do well to shorten their Stay here, lest the Contagion of Haughtiness and Self-Conceit should infect them ; Vices which seem to be

be epidemical among Persons of any Birth or Rank in this Part of Germany.

THE State of Literature and Learning is very low at Vienna ; and flourishes but little in any of the Austrian Dominions. The Truth is, that none of the Family have ever been very zealous Patrons of the Muses, but rather chose to exert their Warmth in the Propagation of the Romish Tenets, to which no Princes were ever more violently and more fatally devoted. Numberless have been the Calamities occasioned by their religious Persecutions ; and their intemperate Attachment to Popery has more than once exposed them to the most imminent Danger of total Ruin and Destruction.

THE proud Spirit of the House of Austria has long been proverbial. Notwithstanding they have several Times been reduced to the Necessity of begging for Assistance at every Princes Door, as Bolingbroke emphatically expresses it, yet in the midst of this Humiliation, they have preserved a Stile of Imperiousness and Arro-

gance, the more blameable, as it might have proved essentially detrimental to their Interest, if the Powers with whom they had to deal, had been equally tenacious of Trifles.

THUS when the Emperor Leopold had been rescued from the most deplorable Situation, chiefly by the Treasures and the Arms of England; and when encouraged and invited by the same Power, he had committed to its Trust and Protection the Hopes and Claims of his Son Charles to the Crown of Spain, he still, in his epistolary Correspondence with the English Court, retained a ceremonious Air of Superiority, and treated it in the Stile rather of a Sovereign who graciously receives the Services justly due, and faithfully paid by a loyal, affectionate Subject, than of a needy Ally, whose All was at Stake, and whose Safety depended on the generous Support of the Potentate he ran the Risk of offending by this dangerous Display of unseasonable Vanity.

It has often been a Matter of Surprize to those who have studied the Temper of
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the Germans, and are well versed in their History, that a Nation so rough, so warlike, so stout, and intrepid, should have submitted to the arbitrary Government that so generally prevails in that extensive Region. In the Time of the Romans, they were the only free People; and from them Freedom spread itself through Europe on the Ruins of the Roman Empire. But the Wonder ceases, when we reflect that the Germans were overcome by Nations descended from themselves; and who, on leaving their native Soil, in order to conquer and settle in others, did not degenerate, but preserved entire the Resolution and Bravery, as well as the hardy Manners of their Ancestors, to which by their Mixture with the People, whose Subjection to the Romans they had transferred to themselves, they added those Arts and Improvements which Rome, by its numerous Colonies, had every where introduced.

Thus when Charlemain, the Founder of the Western Empire, undertook to civilize and reduce the Germans under his

Obedience, he attacked them with Armies composed of Men, not only as valiant and robust as they, but better armed and disciplined; and wholly untainted with that Effeminacy which had been the chief Cause of the Romans being formerly overthrown, in spite of their superior Knowledge in military Affairs. Yet even with such Men, he found it no easy Task to subdue the Germans, whose invincible Attachment to Liberty animated them to the most violent and repeated Struggles to maintain it.

IN the Course of succeeding Ages, when Arts and Commerce began to flourish, the Memory and Spirit of their ancient Freedom revived by Degrees. Many Cities grew to such a Height of Opulence, and consequently became so sensible of their Importance, and manifested so bold a Determination to purchase Independance at any Rate, that partly from pecuniary Considerations, partly from the well-grounded Apprehension of not being able to assert their Authority, Princes thought it prudent to give up their Pretensions of Sovereignty
over

over them. These Cities, thus emancipated from Tyranny, formed themselves into Commonwealths, and entered into Leagues for their reciprocal Security and Defence. This gave Rise to the famous Anseatic Association, which became so formidable as to command Respect from the most powerful Monarchs. They continued in this prosperous Situation till about the middle of the sixteenth Century, when, through Disunion among themselves, and the general Confusion of the Times, a Door was opened for the Renewal of Claims against them; which, however, were opposed with proper Vigour, tho' too often unsuccessfully; as after the Dissolution of their common Alliance, they had singly to withstand the Efforts of each respective Pretender. These Disputes, frequently dropped and resumed, were not fully terminated till the general Pacification produced by the Treaty of Westphalia; when the several Cities now enjoying Freedom, and stiled imperial, were confirmed in the Possession of their various Immunities and Priviledges, which have been uninterrupted to this Day.

THESE Cities are still numerous, and fuller of Trade and Riches than any others in Germany; and from the greater Abundance of Conveniencies and Accommodations of all Kinds, are many of them Places of general Resort for the politer Classes; especially from those Parts that are under the Dominion of Princes whose Subjects are glad of Opportunities to visit these Seats of Liberty; to which, from the Crowds that often fill them, one may not unfairly conclude that Men are drawn by a natural Attraction, not the less strong and cogent for being sometimes imperceptible and involved with other Motives.

THE Inhabitants of these Cities always were, and are still, the most eminent for Ingenuity and Industry of all their Countrymen. Their Abilities in all Sorts of manual Arts have often shone forth with distinguished Lustre; and many of their Merchants have made a capital Figure in the commercial World. If France boasts a Jaques Coeur, and England a Sir Thomas Gresham, Germany produced a Fugger, whose generous Treatment of Charles the Fifth,

Fifth, in the Remittance of the immense Sums due to him from that Emperor, was never surpassed, if ever equalled, by any Subject.

As Recourse is often had to the rich Burghers of these Towns by the indigent Princes, their Neighbours, it is no Wonder if they are proud of their Wealth; and if their Magistrates, and patrician Families, are apt to show a Consciousness of their Weight and Consequence, which is rather offensive to those with whom they have Concerns, and sometimes to Strangers who travel under the Protection of a Title, and are not a little amazed at the small Regard it procures them in such Places.

GERMANY was one of those Countries to which Lewis the Fourteenth of France did essential Service by the Expulsion of his Protestant Subjects. The Princes of Germany had Sense enough to receive them with open Arms, and to give them all the Encouragement which Humanity and good Policy could suggest. As they came not empty-handed, they facilitated

every Measure taken in their Behalf; and very soon most amply rewarded their Protectors, by the Introduction of many valuable Branches of lucrative Business into their Dominions. In a short Time the Aspect of those Cities and Territories where they settled, was totally changed; and a Spirit of beneficial Activity visibly took Place, of the Tardiness and Want of Vigour and Skill in the Occupations of Peace, which had been occasioned by their long domestic Diffentions, and were Evils that required perhaps no less uncommon a Remedy to be completely cured.

A MULTITUDE of Persons eminent in Arms or Literature, and other liberal Accomplishments, were an Honour to this prodigious Emigration of a People, whose Flight from their native Country was influenced by the most laudable Motives that can actuate the Souls of Men, those of Conscience and Religion; of their Sincerity in the Principles of which they undoubtedly gave the most illustrious and convincing Testimonies; if such may be deemed

deemed a voluntary Exile from the Land of their Birth, the Loss of their Inheritance, and the Deprivation of all Hopes of ever repossessing or revisiting what was thus forsaken. Add to this the Uncertainty of their future Fortunes in foreign Parts; the inevitable Difficulties that must have accompanied so hazardous a Retreat; as the very Discovery of their Intentions, and even Wishes to attempt it, were sufficient to render them criminal in the Eye of their Persecutors, and to subject them to the severest Penalties. But all these Considerations could not deter them from their Purpose. It was but just therefore, after manifesting so much Resolution, and making such Sacrifices, that their Reception every where should be attended with so many Proofs of Respect and Benevolence from those among whom they chose the Places of their Refuge.

THE Country benefitted most by these celebrated Exiles was Brandenburg; the Sovereign of which, at that Time, was the truly great Elector, Frederic William, whose heroic Virtues and Abilities laid
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the Foundation of the subsequent Grandeur of his Family. This excellent Prince, whose Goodness of Heart and Magnanimity of Soul were always prompting him to undertake or encourage whatever could conduce to the Interest of the Public, most readily embraced this Opportunity of promoting it, and of signalizing his munificent Disposition. He afforded accordingly the most generous Assistance to the French Refugees, at the Head of whom was the famous Marshal Schomberg; for whom, and the principal Gentlemen that accompanied him, he made a most liberal Provision; appointing him to the supreme Command of his Armies, and bestowing all Manner of Preferments on his Countrymen; whose Gratitude and Zeal in the Service of that worthy Prince, and of his Successors, has, on many Occasions, been highly meritorious.

THESE numerous Colonies of French, thus dispersed over all Germany, diffused a Spirit of Politeness and Improvement throughout the Nation, of which it stood much in Need at that Period. It had, in
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a manner, but lately emerged from civil Distractions; and the Face of the Land yet bore the Marks of the Savage Fury that had so unrelentingly desolated its most beautiful Cities and Provinces. But this Transplantation among them of a People, then the most improved of all Europe, quickly roused their Endeavours to attain a Degree of Perfection, equal to that of which their new Guests were making so advantageous a Display in the many Undertakings which the Princes, in whose Dominions they had fixed their Abode, intrusted to their superior Abilities.

To this happy Emulation Germany owes the Renewal of her former Splendor, and the Amelioration of the useful, as well as of the ornamental Branches of Knowledge and Ingenuity. Many an immense, inhospitable Tract, never cultivated before, or long neglected, was tilled and made profitable. New Sources of Fertility were discovered, by adopting more effectual Methods of Agriculture; and Districts heretofore poor, and almost destitute of Inhabitants,

tants, became remarkable for Riches and Populoufness.

WHOLE Towns were founded and peopled by these French Adventurers; and some of the principal of the ancient Cities received an additional Splendor from the completer Taste in Architecture, which they introduced in those Quarters assigned them for their Residence.

It were endless to enumerate the Advantages that accrued to Germany from this Intermixture of its Natives with those of France; the Sprightlinefs of which last, gradually blending itself with the Solidity of the former, contributed to make them a much more agreeable and engaging People. The Spirit of Society fucceeded that Solemnity and Referve which had fo long caft a Gloom over all their mutual Intercourse. In a few Years feveral of the German Courts were allowed, even by the French, to be complete Patterns of polite Fefivity; and if we except an Attachment to needless Formalities, which however exclude not Mirth and good Humour, it cannot

cannot be denied that they are perfectly conversant in the Science of elegant Amusements.

IN private Life, Gaiety in Conversation obtained the Ascendant over convivial Debauchery; and the Enjoyment of Wit and Pleasure of Discourse were proposed as the Motives of reciprocal Frequentation, which was seasoned with a Refinement of Breeding hitherto unknown.

SUCH was the happy Reformation of Manners for which the Germans were indebted to the French; whose Ways and Customs met with a general Adoption, and whose Language grew the favourite one at divers Courts; and was, by no few of their Litterati, substituted in the Room of the Latin, which alone had long been thought adequate to the Purposes of Erudition.

THIS Preference of the French to the Latin Tongue, proved in Course of Time a material Step to the Improvement of their own; as it was natural to conclude that it might

might attain a like Degree of Embellishment and Perfection, through the same Proportion of Study and Care which had raised the Reputation of the other. Hence, in a short Lapse of Years, the Germans made a great Progress in polishing and bringing it to a Standard of Elegance, Energy, and Precision; and they now can justly boast of several Writers of approved Merit, on a Variety of Subjects; to say nothing of the excellent Translations they have made of the principal Authors both ancient and modern.

THIS humane Treatment of the French did the more Honour to the Good-Nature, Discernment, and Equity of the Germans, as it happened at the very Time that Lewis the Fourteenth was committing those Enormities in the Palatinate, which had rendered him an Object of Execration to all Europe. But the German Princes had too much Sense and Honour, to confound the innocent with the guilty; and still continued their generous Behaviour to his unfortunate Subjects.

IN Return for the Tyranny and Barbarities he had exercised over the latter, it was but natural these should become his most violent and implacable Enemies. Such of them as entered into the military Service of the Powers at War with him, proved, accordingly, the most forward and daring on every Occasion, and incessantly sought Opportunities to glut a Revenge that had sufficient Cause to be boundless and insatiable. This Inveteracy, though venal or shallow Writers have had the Audaciousness, or Absurdity, to reprehend it, the unanimous Voice of the unprejudiced World has most loudly justified.

AMONG the many Heroes produced by this Spirit of Resentment, none signalized themselves more than those who fought under German Banners. They furnished the Forces of the Protestant Princes with Officers of consummate Experience and Bravery; some of whom displayed such uncommon Talents in their Profession, as to be preferred, tho' Strangers, to the Command of Armies. Their Descendants bear the same Character, and afford some of the
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most illustrious Generals in Germany at this Day.

GERMANY was certainly as proper a Country as any the French Protestants could have pitched upon for a Retreat from religious Persecution, on Account of the Lenity and Moderation that prevail there in Affairs of a spiritual Nature. No greater Proofs of their reciprocal Toleration can be given, than that some of their Cathedral Chapters are composed of an equal Number of Protestants and Romanists; and that even Bishops are chosen by Turns out of each Persuasion. Some of their Princes have carried this happy Temperance of Disposition to a very laudable Height. The first King of Prussia, took a remarkable Opportunity of testifying his Desire to bring about a cordial Union between the Episcopal and Presbyterian Parties, by appointing two Bishops, though he was himself a Calvinist, to officiate at his Coronation, and allowing, at the same Time, of some particular Forms and Ceremonies, but ill agreeing with the Notions of the latter Sect.

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It must, however, be acknowledged that this Lenity in Church-Matters, though general, is far from being universal; and it unhappily remains to be wished, rather than expected, that some of them would remit of their Severity against the Members of other Communion. Protestants and Romanists are equally blameable in this Respect; but the Tenaciousness of the former in the various Notions that occasion Misunderstandings among them, is often productive of the most uncharitable and scandalous Treatment of each other, the more criminal, as their Differences of Opinion are on trifling, unessential Articles.

Nothing has been more detrimental to the Protestant Interest than these absurd Altercations about Things of no Importance; and it is much to be lamented, that after so nobly shaking off the Yoke of Papacy, they did not make it a common Cause; and remain firmly united in Friendship and Communication of Privileges, for the Safety and Preservation of their whole Body, against the Machinations of a Foe,

whose Implacability they were soon taught by fatal Experience.

THE Century preceeding that of Luther had already shewn what they were to expect who durst assume the Character of Reformers : The Fate of the unfortunate John Hufs, and Jerom of Prague, had given Mankind sufficient Warning. But the Courage of Luther was Proof against all Intimidations. Never was any Man better calculated for the Work he took in Hand, nor knew more properly how to avail himself of the Disrespect and Averfion which the Proceedings of the See of Rome had fo deservedly met with. His Penetration and Discernment led him to perceive the Time was come for a more fucceffful Opposition ; and his Refolution in perfevering, was equal to the Confidence he had shewn in commencing fo dangerous a Task. His personal Intrepidity was fuch, that notwithstanding the Advice of his Friends, inforced by the two dreadful Examples above-mentioned, he ventured himself in the midft of his Enemies ; and appeared in the Prefence of the Emperor, and in the Face
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of the Diet of the whole Germanic Empire, as a Champion ready to assert the Goodness of his Cause against all Opponents.

UNDER so undaunted a Head, it was natural the Members should act with Spirit. We find accordingly, that in a little Time the Reformation had made so rapid a Progress, as to defy the utmost Efforts of the papal Party, and to promise a settled and lasting Prosperity ; which, however, was not purchased without paying the Price of much Blood, and convincing the Persecutors of the Protestants, by the most invincible Resistance, that these were determined to shed their last Drop sooner than submit.

SINCE the middle of the last Century, when the Sword of religious Fury was sheathed, never, it is reasonably presumed, to be drawn again, the Protestants have increased in Strength and Riches, and constitute undoubtedly, at present, as respectable a Body at least as their Antagonists ; who cannot pretend to vie with them in the Arts

of Industry and Commerce ; as these have in their Possession, the principal Imperial Cities, where the chief Trade and Business of the Empire is carried on, and where a Prospect of the Liberty prevailing there, invites Numbers to settle ; which daily augments their Wealth and Importance ; these Accessions of Inhabitants being composed of Persons of Property, or of those whose Talents are calculated for the Acquisition of it.

It is not, in the mean Time, without a jealous Eye, that the Romish ecclesiastical Princes behold this superior Felicity of a People for whom, whatever their exterior Conduct may appear, they entertain a secret Abhorrence, when they recollect what immense Possessions have been torn from them by these Upstarts, as they stile, in the Bitterness of their Hearts, all who have departed from their Communion.

BUT, if Ambition could be satisfied, the Popish Clergy in Germany, still retain such a Proportion of Opulence and Power, as ought entirely to content them.

EXCEPT

EXCEPT in the Dominions of the House of Austria, the Right of episcopal Election is vested in the Members of the various Chapters; and every Bishop thus chosen becomes immediately a Sovereign. Some of the finest, and most fertile Countries in all Germany, are the Patrimony of the Church; and besides the three ecclesiastical Electors, whose Grandeur and Prerogatives are well known, there are others hardly, if at all, their Inferiors. Most of them display a Magnificence equal to that of Kings; and there is not one of them whose Revenues are not quite princely. Even the secondary Church-Livings are so noble and plentiful, that none but Persons of Birth are deemed worthy of them.

FROM these ecclesiastical Principalities and Estates, are drawn the Funds that support so many of the great Families in Germany, and so often restore to their ancient Splendor such as are gone to Decay. The Promotion to a Mitre amply enables the Wearer to provide most liberally for every Relation, however needy or avaricious;

and even a Prebend of the middling Sort sufficiently qualifies the Incumbent to be generous and munificent.

THERE is certainly no Country where the whole Hierarchy, both secular and regular, is on so beneficial and respectable a Footing. The Regard paid even to some Female Orders is such, that an Abbess of a certain celebrated Abbey in Prague, enjoys the Privilege of crowning the Queen of Bohemia.

SOME of these clerical Princes affect a very warlike Appearance, and seem wholly taken up in military Occupations; as in fortifying their Towns; laying up Magazines and Stores; and making Preparations for the most vigorous Defence against any Enemy. Others have gone further; such as the celebrated Bernard Van Galen of Munster, whose Turn was entirely martial, and who was, in all Respects, much more a General than a Bishop.

THE Conduct and Behaviour of such Men shew clearly enough that personal Aggrandisement

disement was the Motive that influenced their Vocation. This, indeed, is the Case with most of the younger Sons of Sovereign Houses, among those of the Romish Persuasion ; who have also adopted another Piece of Policy, not a little conducive to the strengthening of their Party ; and that is, to confer a Number of these important Dignities on one Person ; thereby to collect that Power from their Union, which they could not confer while divided.

THE general Spirit of the Government, and Ways of Living in the Courts of these ecclesiastical Princes, fully demonstrate that Ambition and worldly Views are uppermost in their Attention. Their Administration is neither more mild nor equitable, than that of the Secular ; and their Pastimes, Gallantry excepted, are much the same. They are equally punctilious in their Claims and Pretensions, and in asserting their most trifling Rights and Priviledges.

WHATEVER their ruling Passion may prove, their Propensity to indulge it is remarkable. Celibacy exempting them from

that Solicitude for Posterity which often checks an expensive Disposition, they are apt to be limited by no Bounds but those of their Income; and to impair even this in Pursuit of their Gratifications. Thus to cite one or two Instances of Extravagance out of many, some have lavished their whole Revenues in needless Buildings, and Plantations; and others have been so strangely addicted to Hunting, as to detriment the Cultivation of the Land, and oppress the Country People, for the Sake of enjoying that favourite Diversion.

FROM this Proneness to Systems of Life so inconsistent with the Purport of their Profession, the Romish Clergy in Germany are not held in the same Degree of Reverence and Veneration as in some other Popish Countries; and are at present too much considered in the Light of mere Men of the World, to meet with much implicit Homage and Deference in this discerning Age.

IN ancient Times their Influence was so great and extensive, that even Emperors
have

have owed their Exaltation to them. Rodolphus, the first Emperor of the House of Austria, was elected by Means of his Confessor Albert, Bishop of Ratisbon. A Service for which ample Returns have been made in the uncommon Respect of his Descendants for Churchmen, the Zeal they have always manifested for their Support and Protection, and the close Adherence to those Maxims of Government, on which their Grandeur is founded.

THE Secular Princes of Germany form a Body of Men, not more illustrious on Account of their Birth and Family Splendor, than of the many eminent Characters they have produced ; whose Virtues and great Qualities seem, in general, to excite the noblest Emulation among them ; no Country affording such a numerous List of its Princes, and prime Personages in the most arduous and hazardous Posts and Employments.

THOUGH invested with unlimited Power, they are seldom guilty of arbitrary Proceedings ; and Despotism is certainly less exercised

exercised by the German Sovereigns than by any others. They whose Authority is most felt, are the petty Princes; whose ridiculous Affectation to imitate the greater, induces them sometimes to squeeze the Purses of their Subjects, beyond the Rules of Moderation. But even among these, Examples of such a Depravity are not frequent; and they are, for the most Part, content with the ordinary, stated Income which Custom and Precedents have established.

SOME of them have given Proofs of an extraordinary Sense of Honour and Equity in pecuniary Matters. Thus a Margrave of Bareith, in order to discharge the Debts of his Predecessor, divested himself, during the Course of several Years, of all courtly Magnificence, and lived almost in Obscurity, in order to husband his Finances, and compass the End he had proposed without burdening his Subjects.

IT has, on the other Hand, been asserted, that the German Princes are often very rigorous, and even tyrannical, in ex-
acting

acting unnecessary Taxes, merely to supply their extravagant Expences; and that several have carried their Inhumanity so far, as to punish in a most unfeeling Manner, those who durst interfere, without Leave, in their Field Recreations.

BUT when Regard is had to the great Number of these Princes, that no Restraint lies in the Way of their Inclinations, and that they are often surrounded by Persons who make it their Business to devise new Modes of Pleasure and Pastime, it will rather appear more surprising, that so few of them are guilty of any pernicious Excesses, in Comparison of those whose Conduct is upright and worthy of Praise.

THE Truth is, that such as deviate from these laudable Patterns, may, with more Propriety, be noted for Whimsicalness in their Disposition, and Irregularity in some Part of their Behaviour, than for Severity and Injustice in the general Administration of their Affairs; a Remissness wherein is usually the heaviest Charge that can be alledged against them.

No Sovereigns have taken more Pains, and laboured more successfully to improve their Country and People, than those of the House of Brandenburg. A fortunate Succession of three Princes, very different in their Character, but who were all steady in their Pursuits, concurred to fix that State on such a Basis of good Order and Stability, as have enabled the Prince now on the Throne, to display those Talents which have been the Astonishment of all Europe. Frederic William, justly stiled the great Elector, through the whole Course of a long and troublesome Reign, made it his Business, to infuse into his Countrymen that martial Spirit so necessary to a Nation exposed to the perpetual Hostilities of ambitious, enterprising Neighbours, and obliged by its Situation to rely chiefly on itself for Defence. His Wars, his Victories, and even his Defeats, were glorious. The first he always undertook from equitable Motives; the second he commonly obtained with much inferior Forces; and the last were accompanied with Proofs of undejected Fortitude, and so speedily and skilfully

skilfully repaired, as to become equally useful with the former, in the Training and Instruction of his Armies.

His Son, though far beneath him in Point of Genius, yet had Prudence enough to follow most of his Maxims, and to hearken to those who enforced them; and happily not having the like Difficulties to contend with as his Father, had full Leisure to attend to that Introduction of the polite Arts, for which his Reign was principally distinguished.

His Grandson succeeded at a Time, when it was become highly expedient to correct an improper and ruinous Taste for boundless and injudicious Magnificence. Accordingly he exerted his Talent, which was Oeconomy, in the most surprising Manner; and shewed what great Things might be done with moderate Finances, when wisely administered. The Emperor, and the King of France excepted, no European Power kept so numerous an Army on Foot; the peculiar Discipline of which was the Subject of Discourse and Admiration every

every where. Notwithstanding that Independency in the Ways of thinking and acting, of which the German Princes are so fond and jealous, the excellent Effects of his sagacious Ordinances and Regulations, both in civil and military Affairs, could not but ingage the Attention of his Cotemporaries, and stimulate them to an Imitation of such laudable Measures. Hence, during his Reign, Order and Regularity became fashionable ; and many a Prince modelled his Household, his Troops, and his Expences according to what was called the Prussian System ; the capital Aim and Tendency of which was, to abstain from all Profusion, and to deliver the Subject from oppressive Imposts, by raising no more Money than was sufficient to answer the Demands of Government, and, by leaving him the Liberty of enriching himself, to lay up Treasures for the future Exigencies of the State. The Observance of these Maxims made the Character of this Monarch highly respected, and the Situation of his Subjects as easy and prosperous, as it can be supposed to have been under an absolute Government ; to say nothing of the beneficial Consequences

sequences that resulted to the People of those Countries whose Sovereigns followed the Example of his mild, humane Administration.

THIS Lenity, in the Exercise of his Power, not only proceeded from his natural Inclination, but was also founded on the Conviction of its peculiar Necessity in Germany; where, by the Contiguoufness of each others Dominions, Princes are liable to lose not only the Affections, but likewise the Persons of their Subjects, in Cases of Mal-treatment. A Truth too frequently verified by those Emigrations that have left some Parts of Germany almost desolate; and which are still the more pernicious, as the Loss usually consists of the most enterprising and laborious, and therefore the most useful Members of the Community; none but such having Courage enough to think of encountering the Hardships, and Variety of Obstacles, that seldom fail to accompany an Attempt to settle in a foreign Country. Experience has constantly shewn that Emigrators are Men of Industry and Perseverance. Their Consciousness of these Qualifications,

fications is the very Motive that induces them to remove from the Scene of Oppression, in Quest of that Countenance and Protection, which Talents, and a Disposition to employ them, are sure of finding in a Land of Equity.

FROM the like Impatience, whether of real or fancied ill Usage, it as frequently happens that the Nobility and Gentry of Germany forsake their Masters, in Expectation of ameliorating their Fortune elsewhere. But what is yet more remarkable, they are no less ready, without pretending any Cause of Complaint, to abandon them on a Prospect of greater Advantage, without feeling the least Remorse or Scruple arising from any Notions of Fidelity due to the Prince whose Service they quit. In this, they pretty much resemble the Swiss; a People irreproachable in every Part of their Conduct, excepting that Indelicacy with which they prostitute their Valour for the Sake of Gain. Though, indeed, an Apology of some Weight occurs in Favour of these, when we reflect that the Safety of the Republic, which is unable itself to maintain

large

large standing Armies, partly authorises this Policy; as from the great Number of their Countrymen in the Pay of more opulent Nations, they are always sure, on any Emergency, to be supplied with experienced Officers and Troops, and thus reap that Advantage of War in a State of profound Peace.

IN the same Manner Persons of Ability, throughout Germany, are too much at the Command of the highest Bidder; and profess very little Attachment to their native Sovereigns, or even to their own Country. Of this the German Princes are so thoroughly sensible, that they make no Difficulty of bestowing their Confidence and Favour on any Native of the Empire indiscriminately; and are very far from restricting their Choice to those born within their own Dominions. Many of the principal Personages in the different Courts, are absolutely Strangers in Point of Birth and Family Connexions. The celebrated Count Fleming, prime Minister to Frederic Augustus, King of Poland, and Elector of Saxony, was born a Subject of Brandenburg.

burgh. And Count Wartemberg, a long Time the Favourite of Frederic, the first King of Prussia, was a Palatine.

THOUGH such a System may be favourable to Emulation, in the Improvement and Exertion of Genius and Capacity, yet it extinguishes the Spirit of Patriotism, by creating an Indifference for Persons and Places, which seldom fails to terminate in Selfishness and Venality.

FEW People abandon their Country with less Reluctance than the Germans. Pecuniary Views, religious Persecutions, and Flights from domestic Troubles and Miseries, have, during the two last Centuries, drained Germany of a prodigious Number of its Inhabitants. The lower Classes in particular, furnish a perpetual Supply to the United Provinces; which had long ago, from various Causes, been exhausted, were it not for this unceasing Influx of foreign Multitudes, whose Indigence and Laboriousness render them of immediate Utility to that industrious and provident State.

AMBITION

AMBITION as often leads the better Sort abroad in Search of Honour and Promotion. As they are commonly Men of daring Dispositions, they leave no Methods untried to arrive at the highest Preferment; careless of the Danger attending the Means of their Exaltation, and resolutely intent to procure and maintain it at all Events. Thus it was the famous Baron Goerts obtained the Favour of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden; in whose Right he governed that Kingdom in such a Manner as cost him his Life. Thus, in our own Times, the equally noted Baron Neuhoff aspired at no less than a Diadem; the temporary Possession of which served only to embitter the Calamities and Distresses of every Denomination, which that unhappy Gentleman seemed, in a Manner, born to encounter.

OTHERS have been more successful; and by contenting themselves with less elevated Stations, have enjoyed them with greater Security.

IMPARTIALITY requires it to be acknowledged that none of those Princes and

States, in whose Service they have been employed, have had Cause to repent the Trust reposed in their Abilities. To mention only one Instance, France will never forget its Obligations to the great Marshal Saxe; the only General who sustained effectually the Reputation of its Arms in the War preceding the last.

THE Germans possess, in a peculiar Degree, that highly useful Art, in Men of the World, of reconciling a bold and resolute Spirit with a Pliancy of Temper, and a Suppleness of Behaviour, according as their Interest requires they should assume either of these divers Characters. From this peculiar Dexterity in the Management of their Concerns, they derive that Permanency of good Fortune and Success, which attends them so remarkably through the Variety of Trials their restless Pursuits of Grandeur engage them in.

No Country in Europe furnishes so many Examples of Persons making their Way through Difficulties, by Dint of Patience, in waiting for Occasions to make a
timely

timely Use of their Abilities. Sensible that these are ineffectual without the Intervention of favourable Accidents, they beware of all Hurry and Precipitation ; and reserve themselves with a calm and composed Vigilance, for the Arrival of those Events, without the Co-operation of which the greatest Capacity must fail.

THIS Wariness and Circumspection are the principal Basis whereon the uncommon Prosperity of so many Individuals is founded in Germany ; where it is far from unusual to see Persons attain to the same Degree of Credit and Power in different Courts successively. A convincing Proof of extraordinary Discretion and Sagacity in such as are thus fortunate.

No People, indeed, seem better qualified by Nature to effect their Rise in such Places. They are endued with that Obstinacy in their Undertakings, which lays no Disappointments to Heart, and continue unshaken in their Determinations in spite of repeated Discouragements. Hence after a long Exertion of Constancy, should in any

particular Quarter, all their Endeavours prove fruitless, and no Probability remain of their meeting with a Reverse of Fate, as their Inclinations are wedded to no Spot, or Set, they shift the Scene of Action without the least Repugnance, and proceed to a Recommencement of their primitive Plan with unabated Alacrity. In Consequence of this Undespondency, this Vigour of Soul that never loses Hope, they seldom fail to overcome all Obstacles, and soon or late, complete the Execution of their Designs.

A TENACIOUSNESS of their original Aims is so deeply rooted in their Temper, that when from the Persuasion of being endowed with a superior Genius, they have indulged themselves in the most ambitious Prospects, they are amazingly firm and unremitting in their Efforts, and sanguine in the Expectations to compass their Ends; and what is no less observable, singular and romantic as this Frame of Mind may appear, they generally find their Account in it.

FROM an equal Concurrence of Pride and Perseverance in their Schemes, when
they

they have once obtained that Summit of Exaltation they at first proposed, nothing of an inferior Rate will ever after satisfy them. Sooner than submit to a Degradation, they resolutely abandon the Scene of their Disgrace; and wherever their Retreat is fixed, their unconquered Spirit leads them to renew the Exertion of their Parts with undejected Confidence, and thus often to procure a Reiteration of their former Splendor; as it happens not unfrequently in Germany, that the discarded Minister of one Prince becomes the principal Agent of another.

MOST of the German Gentlemen are what the French very pertinently call *Soldats de Fortune*, Soldiers of Fortune, or to speak more properly, Hunters of Preferment. It is therefore no Wonder, if they eagerly watch, and readily seize every Opportunity of bettering their Condition. This no Individuals whatever can stand a fairer Chance of doing, as they are not difficult to please, and are willing to accept of any Offer, however small the Lucre, provided the Employment be genteel. Hence it is, the

German Armies are so full of Persons of Birth ; and that the lowest military Offices have often been gladly embraced, as the sole Means of Subsistence and Support, by many whose Merit has, in Process of Time, raised them to the highest Dignities.

THE late King of Prussia, who was a Man of great Observation, in order to encourage this martial Turn in Youths of reputable Families, did two Things of the most salutary Tendency both to the State and to the Parties concerned. The first was to institute in his principal Cities, Academies of Cadets, or young Gentlemen, who were educated at his Expence, and trained up in the Branches of Knowledge requisite for an Officer. The second was to enjoin each of his Generals, to take under his Patronage and Tuition, some Youth well descended, but of slender Means, and to qualify him in the completest Manner for the future Service of his Prince and Country.

A NARROWNESS of Circumstances often attends not only most of the German Nobility

bility and Gentry, but even not a few of their petty Princes; who are sometimes driven to the same Shifts to maintain their State and Grandeur, and perhaps to mend the Breaches in their Income, occasioned by the Extravagance of their Predecessors, or their own, as inferior Individuals are obliged to have Recourse to, in order to preserve their Credit, or repair their shattered Fortunes. Thus Alienations and Mortgages are no very rare Transactions in some of these Courts: Hence too, that grand Restorer of disordered Affairs, a wealthy Bride, is sought after with no little Solitude. Though Germanic Pride will not stoop to one of ignoble Origin, yet they who are penurious will, in Favour of an ample Dowry, act with extraordinary Condescension, and gloss over many Considerations that would appear very offensive to their Haughtiness, if they were in a Condition to indulge it. Even to those who are in Affluence a rich Wife is no indifferent Object; and few German Princes, if any, care to marry without a large Portion.

IF Sovereigns are led by such Motives, well may their principal Subjects follow the Example;

Example ; and this is done accordingly in the fullest Latitude. As these are not bound by the same Restrictions, their Choice has a larger Field to range in. They readily therefore, and seldom unsuccessfully, pay their Addresses to the opulent Heiresses in the commercial Classes, who seem in Germany less apt, than elsewhere, to reject the Suit of a Man adorned with honourable Appellations. Yet such is the Prepossession in Favour of Descent and Pedigree, that notwithstanding the Wife of a Man under the Degree of a Prince, though beneath him in Point of Birth, is allowed to bear his Title, she must lay it to her Account, if her Parentage is obscure, to meet with endless Slights and Mortifications from the Ladies who happen to be better born. This ill-natured Arrogance is often carried so far as to refuse her Admittance in their Circles and Assemblies, to shun her very Acquaintance, and even to deny her the common Civilities of Salutation, and polite Notice in any accidental Intercourse.

THIS Haughtiness is an incurable Disease in most Parts of Germany ; where a
 Person's

Person's Merit seldom gets the better of his Want of illustrious Blood, in the Minds of the Generality. Not only the Vulgar, but also the more decent Classes are entirely tamed into a mean spirited Reverence of their Superiors for this accidental Advantage. Even Wealth itself must not pretend to enter the Lists of Competition with it. And the most considerable Merchant is an Individual of small Importance among those whose Names are graced with some titular Appendage; from the gilded Premier, who basks in the Sunshine of Favour, to the needy Gentleman who bears Indigence patiently, in Hopes of Preferment, and regularly attends at the Distribution of his Master's Forage. A Practice that sufficiently shews the Poverty of those who accept of such a Donation.

WELL may these, however, comfort themselves with Expectations of rising in their Turn, as it has been occasionally among them that Princes, in some of their capricious Fits, have chosen their Favourites. Neither need any of their Courtiers be apprehensive of a Deficiency of Talents, to fill adequately so brilliant a Post; as a
Dexterity

Dexterity in Horsemanship, the Use of Arms, or some other Accomplishment of that Stamp, or even of an inferior Kind, such as Chess, Cards, or Dice, has more than once attracted the Notice, and procured the Benevolence of a Sovereign, and proved of more Efficacy in the Advancement of their Fortunes, than the most valuable Qualifications would in all Likelihood have done.

Thus by playing skilfully at Chess, one Kamk insinuated himself into the good Graces of Frederic, the first King of Prussia. This Monarch, whose inconstant Disposition induced him to appoint and dismiss his Ministers without much Difficulty, was so captivated with this new Favourite, that he discarded an old Servant, on very slight Pretences, in order to give his Employments to the former.

In much the same Manner had the Constable of Luines, the Minion of Lewis the Thirteenth of France, made his Way to Greatness by his complete Skill in Sportsmanship, and by initiating his Master in the Diversions of the Field.

SUCH Passages remind one of the Story of a Turkish Emperor, who conferred an eminent Post on one of his Gardeners, to reward his Deterity in planting Cabbages.

THOUGH Instances of this Species of Folly are not, as it appears, unknown elsewhere, yet they are much more frequent in Germany ; from the Multiplicity of odd Characters in a Country where Sovereigns abound, many of whom render themselves remarkable through a Fondness and Affectation of Singularities.

SOVEREIGNTY meets no where with more Deference and Veneration than in Germany. The Natives of that extensive Empire, hold it an Honour and Happiness to belong to the Service of any of their Princes ; and all whose Condition, Means, or Capacity, are above the common Level, endeavour to recommend themselves to their Attention and Esteem, in order to obtain a Share of Trust in their Concerns. Herein the Germans sympathize greatly with the French, most whom that are able
to

to purchase or procure it, are very desirous of being distinguished by exercising some Function at Court.

THE inferior Classes in Germany, though far from deficient in solid, substantial Sense, are yet, in many Respects, what the French have justly enough stiled them, *Epais et Materials*, dull and heavy. Their Inter-course has little or nothing of that intellectual Festivity, which, in some other Nations, is the very Life of social Meetings. The usual Subjects of their Conversation, are the Result of the current Business of the Day, and turn too much on those Incidents that arise from the Speaker's Profession, to afford any Entertainment to such as have no Connexions with it. Topics of this Nature, accompanied with the most plentiful Compotations, generally constitute their Pastimes.

THIS Custom of excessive carousing, was formerly thought conducive to a much better Purpose than merely to procure Jollity and Mirth to the Living only. The Dead
also

also were imagined to receive some Advantage thereby; an Opinion that was current in certain Districts of Germany not many Centuries ago.

STRANGE Conceits and Practices have prevailed, not only among the rude and barbarous, but even the most enlightened Nations. Some of the most civilized People of old used to bring forth, in their convivial Merriments, the Images of their deceased Friends, by Way of commemorating the Joys they had formerly partaken in their Company. The Aborigines of America, at this Day, go much further; and produce the very Carcasses and Skeletons of their departed Relations and Familiars, in the solemn Feasts and Festivals which are publicly held in order to perpetuate their Remembrance. In some Parts of Spain, they conclude Interments with a Refreshment, and a Song, the Burden of which is *viva el Muerto*, long live the Dead. There are also particular Days and Occasions in England, whereon we drink to the Memory of celebrated Names. It remained for the Germans to adopt the Notion, that
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the Dead could derive any Benefit from a copious Consumption of Liquor by the Living.

THE politer Sort are not much less guilty of Intemperance in their Cups than the lower ; a Vice, without Exaggeration, universal among all Conditions and Degrees. Both Laity and Clergy are equally addicted to it ; and even the Literati, who in other Countries are profest Votaries of Sobriety, cannot, in this drinking Region, resist the Torrent of Example.

THESE latter form a numerous Body in Germany ; where that Species of Literature, which consists in a superficial Acquaintance with, and inelegant Use of the Latin Tongue, is common and diffused throughout the lowest Stations.

THE Fact is that Germany in a manner, is overrun with what the World is usually pleased to term Scholars ; most of whom would certainly have made a much better Figure in any other Situation whatever. This proceeds from the Facility of receiving

receiving a classical Education, and the Difficulty of applying to any Calling of a different Cast, after having expended the prime of Life in academical Studies, and contracted, through Length of Time, that peculiar Habit of Mind they occasion. Hence no Country is more largely stocked with Authors, or rather Dealers in bookish Knowledge; Men, whose voluminous Compilations may not improperly be considered as immense Magazines of Erudition, collected by them for the Use of Persons of Genius, as Labourers prepare Materials to be employed under the Direction of Artists.

AMONG these prodigious Collections, none make a more considerable Appearance than their Law-Tracts; which, from the immense Variety of Regulations that have necessarily taken Place in a Country where there are so many Sovereigns and States entitled to frame them, must unavoidably compose a *formidabile Corpus Juris*, a tremendous Body of Laws; and furnish a World of Study and Occupation for Lawyers, a most lucrative Branch of Business in Germany, where every Prince and inde-

pendent City, are most perseveringly watchful and jealous of their innumerable Rights, Privileges, and Prerogatives; to support the most trivial of which, (and these are not few) as well as the most material, no Litigation is esteemed too tedious or expensive.

'TILL within this Century, there were many among the Germans, in other Respects no contemptible Scholars, who entered deep into cabalistical Speculations. Some seriously studied judicial Astrology. Others firmly believed the Existence of Genii, as well as the Frequency of Apparitions. Of late Years a very extraordinary Opinion was broached, and learnedly maintained by some of the remaining Members of these credulous Fraternities, which was that the Dead sometimes came out of their Graves to suck the Blood of the Living. This ridiculous Idea, which possibly was occasioned by the Disorder called the Incubus or Night-mare, found its Way into the neighbouring Countries, and it is almost incredible what a Number of elaborate Dissertations it occasioned.

AND

AND yet, notwithstanding this Readiness and Warmth in adopting idle Notions, the Germans are esteemed much less tenacious and obstinate in spiritual Matters than formerly. It has even been said that, in some Places, a young Woman is now told, on her Marriage with a Man of a different Persuasion from that wherein she has been educated, that henceforth she must conform to the Religion of her Husband; as if it were a Thing of no Consequence which of the two was professed.

BUT if there is really so much Freedom and Latitude in the Ways of Thinking of some People in Germany, it is certain on the other hand, that Superstition is far from being on the Decline every where.

THE Devotion to the Host in the Dominions of the House of Austria, is the more fervent, as the Princes of that Family are thought by their good Subjects, to owe their temporal Aggrandisement to their Piety in this Respect; many Instances of which are cited with great Applause, especially

cially that of Rodolphus, the first who attained to the Imperial Dignity; concerning whom Tradition says, that while Count of Hapsburgh only, meeting with a Priest on Foot, who was carrying the Viaticum to a sick Person, he alighted, and made him mount: It is added, that the Priest, prophetically inspired, predicted to him, as a Reward of this pious Action, his future Grandeur and that of his Descendants. This Story is often in the Mouth of the devout Well-wishers to the Austrian Line, and Pictures of it are frequent both in Places of Worship and in private Dwellings. The Example of this Emperor has often been followed by several of his Posterity, as well as by other Romish Sovereigns, to the great Edification of their People.

IN Bohemia, one of the principal Dependencies of this Family, and where its religious Zeal has been not a little experienced, a Saint is lately started up, that makes as great a Figure at Prague, as our Thomas of Becket did of old at Canterbury; and who works Miracles enough to compose a very curious Legend. His

Name is Nepomuc, and he bids fair, by the rich Presents he receives from all Quarters in that Kingdom, to become in Time as wealthy as the Madonna of Loretto.

NEITHER is Germany wanting in miraculous Images of this last, nor in Relicks of the most extraordinary Kind; such as the Remains of the three Kings at Cologne; and that rare Assemblage of sacred Curiosities at Aix, which at certain Periods, draws so vast a Concourse of Pilgrims from the remotest Parts of Germany: To say nothing of the wonderful Consecration of the Cathedral of that City, at which Saints rose from their Tombs to assist, according to Accounts reputed authentick by Multitudes; nor of the Sword of State brought from Heaven to Charlemain, and carefully preserved among the Imperial Regalia to this Day.

MANY further Arguments of their Bigotry might be enumerated; such as a celebrated Chapel, somewhere in the Austrian Districts, endowed with so many spiritual Priviledges, that a single Mass said in

it, is sufficient to deliver a Soul from Purgatory: Not to forget their Torches of lighted Wood, blest and carried about as Preservatives against Fire and Lightning; nor their ridiculously pious Salutations of each other at certain annual Festivals; to which, it is not so amazing that Indulgences should also be annexed, considering how cheaply they are obtained, as that so sensible a Man, as Pope Clement the Eleventh, should have been their Institutor.

THE Patronage of many Saints is a no less remarkable Peculiarity among those of the Romish Communion in Germany; whose Belief and Trust in the supernatural Influence of these invisible Agents, induces them to claim their Protection, by assuming a Number of their Names. Thus it is not uncommon for an Individual to have ten or a dozen; the festal Days of which he solemnizes with great Punctuality, and loses no Opportunities to testify his Respect for those Inhabitants of Heaven, whose Interest, in Return, he not a little relies on, in the Prosecution of all his Affairs both spiritual and temporal; as often, perhaps, ap-
plying

plying to them for their Guidance and Inspiration of proper Measures in the latter as in the former.

SOME have thought this supposed Communication between Mankind and the Spirits of such as are deemed in the Possession of a happier Existence, a Notion highly deserving of Encouragement; as a Man, from the less Degree of Dread and Awe he feels for these inferior Beings, will probably have the more frequent Recourse to them, and in Consequence, make their Lives and Actions his Study, and the Patterns of his Imitation. But they who argue in this Manner, may, with great Truth, be answered, that an improper, and often disrespectful Familiarity attends the Behaviour of the Client to his Patrons, in his perpetual Demand of their Assistance, not unfrequently on the most trivial, and possibly unwarrantable Occasions. That this imaginary Intercourse creates and cherishes a Supineness and Indolence in the essential Concerns of Religion; by inducing us to pay less Attention to its most material and important Precepts, than to the trifling Du-

ties we impose on ourselves, by Way of securing the Favour of those whom we have been taught to consider in the Light of Protectors ; the scrupulous Exactness that usually accompanies the Observance of these contemptible Injunctions, seldom failing to abate our Assiduity and Zeal in the Discharge of more weighty Obligations.

IN this Article of their Devotion, the Germans acquit themselves with the most ridiculous Fervour ; and are apt to express the most stupid Respect and Fondness for those innumerable Representations of celestial Assistants to Mankind, with which their Churches, their Houses, and their Prayer-Books are filled. Some even go further ; and, as a Token of their entire Attachment and Predilection, wear the Picture of their favourite Saint, appendant to their Neck, or fastened to a Button-Hole, like some of the foreign Orders of Knighthood. Even the better Sort are not guiltless of these Fooleries ; which, notwithstanding the Intermixture and Toleration of Protestants in Germany, are often carried to the same Degree of Absurdity, as in the most bigoted Romish Countries.

To this Excess of Superstition in the Invocation of Saints, one may add their notorious Susceptibility of Belief in all those pious Forgeries calculated by Men of more Simplicity than Wisdom, to serve religious Purposes; but which, in Reality, are only proper to excite Laughter and Derision. Thus, among other silly Tales, that of Hatto, Bishop of Mentz, reported, for his Cruelty to the Poor, to have been devoured by Rats, is asserted, by many, with a Positiveness that cannot brook the least Contradiction or Doubt of the Fact. The Expulsion of that Vermin from a certain Province, by a Relation of St. Hubert, is held equally unquestionable.

CREDULITY, however, seems epidemical in Germany: Even in Brandenburg, a Protestant Country, the Ghost of an old Woman, who was disobliged by an Elector of that House, some Centuries ago, has, they say, infested his Posterity ever since; and usually haunts their Palaces by Way of Signal on their approaching Deaths. This absurd Notion is treated with more Seriousness

ness than one would be apt to imagine; and it is well known, the Death of the first King of Prussia was hastened by a sudden Fright, occasioned by the Sight, as he for the Moment thought, of an Apparition clad in White, (the Phantom's reputed Habit) and which proved to be his Queen; whose Mind was disordered, and who burst into his Apartment, and waked him with great Roughness and Violence, as he sat slumbering in a Chair.

THE Truth is, notwithstanding that phlegmatic Disposition which preserves the Germans from being easily imposed upon in the common Occurrences of Life, and which one might reasonably suppose would have the like Effect on other Emergencies, they still harbour a surprising Willingness to admit the Probability of extraordinary and marvellous Events.

FROM this Fund of Absurdity, they derive an Aptitude to indulge in the most whimsical, extravagant Conceits; and such as betray a Wildness and Incoherency of Thought that border upon Folly. Wit-
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ness that Institution of Friars, during the last Century, who are obliged by their Statutes, not only to depend for Subsistence on public Generosity without soliciting it, as other mendicant Orders are allowed to do, but even, in Cases of the utmost Want, to wait three entire Days before they give Notice of their Distress.

GERMANY is, indeed, in many Respects, the Seat of the Empire of Fancy. There is no Country wherein its various Inconsistencies are so fully exhibited. Prejudices of the most preposterous Nature infect the Minds of the Natives, according as their Systems of Government happen to differ; and a senseless, selfish Spirit of Pride and Partiality, dictates on either Side their Judgments of Men and Things. In those Places where Princes rule, and Nobility abounds, nothing else is prized; Trades and the reputable Occupations of civil Life are held in Contempt; and even Magistracy itself is looked upon as disgraceful. As Employments merely lucrative must not, under Pain of Degradation, be accepted by Persons of Birth, these have, in order to comfort themselves

themselves for so mortifying an Exclusion, fixed a Mark of Infamy on every Kind of Business that may be exercised by what they call a Man of no Birth.

THIS Pride of Blood, and Value of Ancestry, is so inconceivably rooted in the Character of some Courts, that in the Rewards they bestow, and the Distinctions they confer on Individuals, their Origin often prescribes the Measure of the first, and settles the Degree of the last; and by the whole Tenour of their Proceedings in these Matters, they seem fully persuaded that Merit cannot be complete, unless its Owner is honourably descended. Thus, when the Emperor Leopold created the Duke of Marlborough Prince of the Empire, his noble Pedigree was carefully mentioned in the Patent, as a considerable Inducement; though certainly his Actions were sufficiently illustrious to eclipse all other Motives.

IF the German Grandees are, on the one hand, infatuated with the Ideas of Dignity annexed to their Rank, there is on the

the other, a Class of People, who, in a very opposite Station of Life, entertain equal Notions of their own Importance; and, strange to tell, these are the Peasants of some of those happy Districts appertaining to the Imperial Cities; or which, though acknowledging the Sovereignty over them of some Prince, have yet found Means to retain such Privileges and Franchises as enable them to escape Oppression, and enjoy the Fruits of their Labour. These are a Tribe of Mortals who affect to be the very Reverse of those haughty-minded Nobles; and profess no Esteem for any but pecuniary Merit. Thus the Drift of their whole Lives is much less to enjoy, than amass, immense Hoards of Money, of which they make a most ample Parade, whenever they find themselves in the Presence or Hearing of Title-Bearers, the Poverty of whose Finances forms but a sorry Contrast to their high Pretensions. These are the perpetual Butts of their Sarcasms, and undergo the most unmerciful Trials of Patience, whenever ill Luck condemns them to have any Intercourse with these opulent and presumptuous Rustics; whose
unaccountable

unaccountable Vanity, and astonishing Prepossession in Favour of their intrinsic Worth, is such, as to esteem it an Indignity to their Character, to enter into any Family Alliances out of the Pale of their own Condition. Hence, they all intermarry in order to preserve the Breed unmixed, remain on a Level with each other, and transmit to their Descendants, together with their Fortunes (which are generally very considerable, and center by these Means intirely among themselves) no other Kind of Funds, from whence to derive any Consideration.

FAR different from these are the Boors in most Parts of Germany; the despicable Servility of whose Deportment strongly evinces the wretched Depression of Mind that is the Consequence of extreme Servitude. So humbly, not to say contemptibly, do they think of themselves, that on the least verbal Intercourse with their Masters, or any one their Superior, they study, as it were, to express the deepest Sense of their Inferiority, by the most submissive Abjectness in their personal Demeanor:

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THIS Self-Humiliation is no ungrateful Offering to the Superciliousness and Arrogance for which so many of the German Nobility and Gentry are unhappily noted. Too many of them, indeed, treat these lowest of their Dependants with the most unremitting Severity, and by chastising them unreasonably for the slightest Faults, have hardened and stupified their Bodies and Minds to such a Degree, and so much accustomed them to an Expectation of this merciless Usage, as to have rendered them insensible to all other Motives for Obedience, but such as are enforced with Ill-nature and Cruelty.

WHILE the Grandees indulge themselves in this Tyranny over their Vassals, they are not undeservedly punished for it in the boundless Deference, and unreserved Compliance which they who mean to rise into Favour, are obliged to profess for the Will and Pleasure of their Sovereigns; who though abundantly civil, and even condescending in their Behaviour, still remember their Power is absolute, and are apt enough
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to exert, occasionally, a great deal of Arbitrariness. However insignificant in Point of Dominion, they expect as much Homage and implicit Obedience, as the greatest Potentates, and are no less imperious in exacting the most unlimited Acquiescence and Complaisance, in whatever conduces to gratify their Disposition and Humour.

A LATE Prince in Germany carried his Capriciousness, in this Respect, so far as to betray the most unaccountable Antipathy to whatever might create him the least Uneasiness. This Foible was so well known, and the Effects of it so much apprehended by all who approached him, that none but his Jester (a Species of Beings still subsisting in some of the German Courts) durst assume the Liberty of conveying to his Knowledge any disagreeable News; and this he was forced to do in the most cautious and guarded Manner, and rather by Way of Pleasantry than Information.

THIS Anecdote is similar to what is recorded of a King of France, Philip the Fifth,

Fifth, who grew so outrageous at the many Defeats of his Armies by the English, in the Reign of our Edward the Third, his Competitor for the Crown, that none but the Person who bore the aforementioned Office in his Court, would venture to bring him any such Kind of Intelligence.

LEWIS the Fourteenth, though not deficient in that Courage of Mind which supports ill Fortune, without desponding, had yet some Tincture of this Weakness; and when the Battle of Blenheim had reduced his Affairs to that unprosperous Condition, from which they never recovered, all his Courtiers were silent, and only Madam de Maintenon, his Wife, had sufficient Resolution to disclose the fatal Event.

THE tame and passive Submission of the Germans to their Princes, is the more deserving of Notice, as nothing is more repugnant to their natural Inclination than to make any Sort of Concessions. Unless restrained by Prospects of Interest or Ambition, no People are less tolerant, and more

averse to put up with Affronts and Indignities, nor readier to take Offence at the smallest Provocations. Their Resentment is oftentimes so unjustifiable, and even ridiculous, that their Neighbours the French, (who to do them Justice, are not over patient when they think themselves insulted) have subjected this Punctiliousness in asserting their Honour to a proverbial Derision of long standing; a *Querelle d'Allemand*, a German Quarrel, is an Expression which has been used for many Centuries to signify a serious falling out for Trifles.

THE Suppression of this restive, unpliant Temper, is remarkable in the German Armies; where a pacific Subordination reigns between the upper and lower Classes of Officers, the more exemplary, as the domineering Spirit of the former is often very galling and oppressive to their Inferiors. But a German receives from Nature a Command over his Passions that empowers him to stifle them, whenever his Welfare requires their Concealment; and indues him, at the same Time, with a cool, phlegmatic Perseverance, that enables him to

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keep his Point steadily in View, and give up those Considerations that would make him deviate from the Track, by persisting in which, he expects to succeed.

THIS resolute Constancy accompanying them on all Occasions, is particularly useful in producing that unshaken Adherence to their primitive Pursuits; which assisted by the habitual Ingenuity resulting from continual Application, effects the sure, however slow Progress, the Germans never fail to make in those Undertakings, the Success of which depends chiefly on Assiduity. Their Genius is like a rich, but coarse and tough Soil, which demands the most laborious Cultivation. Their Capacity lies too deep for a superficial Degree of Care and Instruction, to bring it forward to Maturity; but when the requisite Measure of Pains and Attention is bestowed, a most ample Recompence accrues to the Possessor.

HENCE they equal, if not exceed, all Nations in those intellectual Acquisitions,

which Length of Time, and Obstinacy of Toil, are alone able to compass. Their Proficiency in various Languages is, for Instance, astonishing; an admirable Competency of Skill in three or four, and sometimes a greater Number, is an Accomplishment far from unusual in Germany.

THEY make no less eminent a Figure in those Occupations and Studies, a long Continuance wherein will, of Course, lead a penetrative and prying Mind to Discoveries. In all the Branches of experimental Philosophy, and mathematical Knowledge, their Merit is unquestionable; and in mechanical Inventions, they were famous a considerable Time before the English and French: Among many others, we are indebted to them for the noble Art of Printing. Even so remotely as the fourteenth Century, an Age of general Darkeness, they applied themselves to Inquiries into the Secrets of Nature. Witness that surprising one of the Use and Effects of Gunpowder, which they first communicated to the European World, though indeed, the Merit of finding out the Composition itself, has
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lately

lately been disputed them in a very learned and ingenious Publication.

IN this Period of universal Improvement, their Talents and Dexterity are held in the highest Esteem, and the Fabricks of their trading Cities continue in the most diffusive Request, both in their own, and all the adjacent Countries.

MANY of these owe the Civilisation of their Manners, and the Establishment of the polite Arts among them, to the Germans; whose Example prescribes whatever relates to Customs and Fashions throughout the North, with no less Authority than France dictates in these Articles to the Southern Parts of Europe.

BUT there is a material Difference between the Opinion these entertain of the French, and that which the former manifest in favour of the Germans. The latter, from the Downrightness and Candour of their Disposition, meet with the most gracious Acceptance of their Services, and are honoured with the most distinguished

Employments in every Court. That of the great Czar Peter, and his Armies, were full of Germans. Other Sovereigns have shewn them equal Countenance, and their Credit is on the same illustrious Footing as ever.

BUT the Credit of the French, notwithstanding their Abilities, is much inferior. The Dread of that Spirit of Intrigue, and Address in exerting it, which characterises them wherever they go, proves an insuperable Bar to their Advancement to any Post of great Trust in foreign Countries ; where the Influence they sometimes gain, is almost always possessed in secret ; as they are conscious of the general Dissatisfaction it would give, from the Knowledge of their meddling, restless Disposition, and the Apprehensions, that would consequently follow, of their exercising it improperly, and to the Disquiet and Prejudice of the Public, as most of their Countrymen have done, whenever they have had it in their Power.

WE may conclude these Remarks on the Germans, with an Observation, we are naturally led to by the above-mentioned
Disparity,

Disparity between their Character and that of the French ; which is, that no Nation gives more frequent and unanswerable Proofs than the former, how solid and well founded the Maxim is which teaches, that Plainness in our Proceedings, and a practical Abhorrence of all Artifice, are the safest and readiest Road to Success in all our lawful Undertakings.

THIS is a Praise to which the general Tenour of their Conduct justly entitles them ; a Praise of no small Magnitude, and which, notwithstanding the Depravity of an Age, prone to indulge in all the studied Finesses of Cunning and false Prudence, preserves an essential Weight among the Qualifications required in them who are at the Head of public Transactions ; and is at the same Time an illustrious Argument of the Homage, which the staunchest and most constant Votaries of Duplicity, are obliged to pay to the superior Utility of Plain-Dealing.

THE fortunate Effects of this national Frankness and Simplicity of Heart, are

very visible and extensive wherever these Causes are suffered to operate in their full Vigour, and without being fettered by the Restraints of an oppressive System in Politics, ever unfavourable to the Manifestation of the noble Endowments of the Mind.

HENCE in those distant Regions, where German Colonies are settled under more auspicious Forms of Government than prevail in their own Country; the greater and more effectual Encouragement these laudable Principles meet with in a Land of Liberty, than they can enjoy where the Severity of Despotism is predominant, enables them to appear in their genuine Lustre, and to command, as well as merit, those Rewards that are in those yet untyrannised and happy Climes, and ought every where to be, their inseparable Companions.

NONE of the numerous Adventurers in these remote Quarters of the Globe, from whatever Parts of the World they may come, exceed the Prosperity that so generally attends the Emigrators from Germany; who, wherever they fix their Residence,

dence, never fail to render it respectable for the Habitation of Men of the most spotless Faith and Probity ; a Character that as seldom fails to prove the most irresistible Attraction to Confidence, Esteem and Credit, and to insure the most cordial Concurrence on all Sides, to support and forward such deserving Neighbours, in their Endeavours to thrive and flourish, from an experimental Conviction of obtaining a most ample Retribution, in the Participation of the numberless Benefits which must necessarily accrue from so profitable a Vicinity. The Truth of this Assertion is notorious to all who have been Witnesses of the Conduct of the German Settlers in our American Provinces, as honest and worthy a Race of Men, as any that inhabit the British Dominions.

To Candour and Simplicity, let us also add two other most capitally meritorious Qualifications, Laboriousness and Frugality, for which they are no less renowned, and wherein, though they may have Rivals, yet they certainly have no Superiors. These may justly be deemed the four characteristical Virtues of the Germans ; Virtues that
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are incontestibly the Basis of many others, and which place them on a Level with those Nations who entertain the highest Notions of their own Worth.

THEIR indefatigable Exertion of these two latter Qualities, is a peculiar Subject of Admiration to all who travel in Germany, where, notwithstanding the Discouragements, to which the lower Classes are usually subject in many of the Principalities of the Empire, yet, through an invariable Steadiness and Affiduity in their several Callings, Decency and Sufficiency are the Portion of the Majority of those, most of whose Equals in Degree in other Countries, through a Defect of the same Measure of Toil and Application, are reduced to complain of Wretchedness and Want.

BUT without going out of our own Limits, the vast Continent already mentioned abounds with Proofs of the laborious Spirit and good Husbandry of the Germans: Those especially who cultivate the fertile Plains of Pensylvania, are a People, in these Respects, fit to be set up as Examples
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to all our Colonists ; as they are, indeed, inferior to none in that punctual and honourable Discharge of all Duties and Obligations, which constitutes the most excellent Members of Society ; a Truth it is incumbent on all Englishmen to acknowledge with Gratitude, when we reflect on the noble Returns they have made for the Patronage and Assistance received from Britain, in augmenting almost Tenfold, within the Compass of less than half a Century, the Riches and Value of one of our most important Colonies.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Malignity that some have, perhaps too willingly, admitted to be inherent in our Nature, from the Propensity and Alertness, with which Scandal and Defamation are listened to and propagated ; yet, from the more visible Satisfaction and Delight, that commonly appear, as much in them who hear, as in those who recount laudable Transactions, it seems probable there is more Enjoyment resulting from the latter, than from the former ; a Conjecture one may venture to countenance for the Honour of Humanity.

INDUCED

INDUCED by so flattering and agreeable a Presumption, we have expatiated the more largely, and with the more Alacrity, on those Parts of the Character of the Germans, that shew them in an amiable Light; and have not insisted upon the slight Faults of a Nation, so esteemable for its far greater Proportion of eminent Qualities, with that Minuteness which, in the Scale of Sense and Equity, ought to be reserved for the Enumeration of such Things only as can be remembered with Pleasure, and contribute to the Use and Edification of Mankind. When Virtues greatly preponderate, Vices should almost be forgotten; and while we survey the Failings next to inseparable from the Condition of Mortals, we should be cautious not to permit Censoriousness to dwell on meer Foibles, lest our Attention should be diminished to the Splendor of solid Deserts.

The public Interest undoubtedly makes it sometimes necessary, to expose the Guilt, and animadvert on the Flaws of a People in their national Capacity; but the utmost Impartiality

partiality and Discretion should direct such an Enquiry: In order to avoid Falshood and Misrepresentation, the most unfeigned Mildness and Moderation ought to be our Guides, and no Tincture of Exaggeration allowed. According to the celestial Precept, we should temper Judgment with Mercy; and above all, be convinced, that Slander is acceptable only to the Malicious and Narrow-hearted, a Class of Readers it were a Disgrace to please, and that to a feeling Mind the Discovery of Blemishes must be painful; and to an enlarged Understanding the Review of Misdeeds can afford no Matter of Satisfaction.

It is a much more delightful Task, when such Pictures can be drawn as demand more Light than Shade, and require not Colours of an offensive Die; when charmed with the Beauty and Propriety of the Subject, the Painter need not fear to display it fully to Sight. Happy when such a Metaphor is applicable to Individuals; but how much happier, when, without violating Truth, we are able to apply it to whole Nations.

OF THE

D U T C H.

NEITHER ancient nor modern Ages have afforded a more illustrious Proof, that Nations, as well as Individuals, are the Artificers of their own Fortune, than that which has been so conspicuously exhibited by the Republic of Holland.

UNNOTICED for the Course of many Centuries, and mentioned in History as little more than Expletives in the Titles of some Sovereigns, or as the inconsiderable and petty Principalities that occur to the studious Enquirer in the Course of his Reading,

Reading, the Provinces of which this Commonwealth consists, emerged at once from Obscurity, and the World saw with Amaze-ment a People, who composed the smallest Part of an Empire formed by the unexpected Union of various Countries, rise on a sudden, to such a Degree of Strength and Importance, as to figure equally with the most wealthy, most populous, and most powerful Nations.

THIS happened at a Time when, from a Concurrence of sinister Events, all Europe imagined they were on the Eve of becoming of less Consequence than ever; and of experiencing the heaviest Weight of civil and religious Tyranny, which had united to wreak their utmost Malice on them; and seemed less intent to treat them with the most merciless Severity, than to accomplish their absolute and utter Destruction.

SUCH was the distressful Situation of a People who took the heroic Resolution not to despond, and to risk all rather than submit to their Oppressors; though they had
before

before their Eyes, deplorable Instances of the unrelenting Barbarity that must inevitably prove their Fate, if their Resistance were unsuccessful.

A TERRIBLE Example had been made of their unfortunate Neighbours, and Fellow-Subjects, the Flemings; who, though far superior to them in Wealth and Numbers, had miscarried in their Attempt to oppose the illegal Proceedings of an arbitrary Court; which in the Fury of its Resentment, had chastised them with the most shameless Inhumanity.

BUT in Spite of these dreadful Precedents, and the apparent Improbability of their Meeting with better Fortune, Arguments that were strongly urged by the pusillanimous or the venal among their Countrymen; with every Discouragement to damp their Spirit, it still shone forth with almost unexampled Lustre; and enabled an indigent, undisciplined Multitude, to cope with the Treasures of the richest Potentate in Europe, and to face the best disciplined Troops, at that Time,
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in the World; and in the End, to become an Overmatch for both.

FACTS of this Nature, the Authenticity of which is indisputable, ought certainly to establish the Character of a Nation, and render it inaccessible to the Reach of Slander and Malevolence: And yet, whether from Envy, or a Depravity of Judgment, it does not seem that other Nations have shewn a sufficient Degree of Impartiality, and paid a due Tribute of Praise and Admiration, to this Magnanimity and invincible Resolution of the Dutch. The Assistance they successively received from the English, the French, and others, in the Progress of their Hostilities, is generally too much insisted upon; and People forget, that in the Birth and Infancy of their State, a Period when Help was most needed, they had no other Support than their own desperate Valour; of which they displayed, on numberless Occasions, the most amazing Proofs, particularly in those ever-memorable Sieges of Harlem, and Leyden, not undeservedly compared to those of Saguntum, and Carthage; and which they sustained with a

Courage and Heroism necessary, at that critical Period, to convince their Enemies what Men they had to deal with. Actions like these, roused, at last, the Attention of Europe, in Favour of the Dutch; in the same Manner as the valiant Perseverance of the Corsicans in the Defence of their Liberty, may at length interest some of the most considerable Powers in their Behalf.

THIS obstinate Fortitude in the most dangerous Trials, may justly be reputed a national Characteristic of the Dutch. They signally verified it, a second Time, by their intrepid Behaviour in the famous Year Seventy-two, during the last Century, when the ignominious Alliance of the Court of England with that of France, seemed to portend their entire Annihilation, from the Inveteracy, the Power, and the Proximity of these potent Adversaries: The first of them was gaining, and had near compleated a Superiority at Sea; and the Second, from the Numerousness of his Armies, and the Excellence of his Commanders, was reasonably deemed irresistible at Land. Thus they found themselves hemmed in, as it were,

were, between two Affailants, one of whom, though a voluptuous Prince, had private Piques of the most stimulating Nature to animate him against them, and Men of unquestionable Bravery and Conduct, to second his Animosity; and the other was an ambitious, and bigoted Monarch, who thought himself authorised by his Religion, and was instigated by the Adulation of his Subjects and Ministers, to overturn that flourishing Commonwealth.

IN this Extremity, which nothing could exceed or equal, but the primitive Difficulties they had to encounter in the Formation of their State, they acted with a Firmness and Prudence no People ever surpassed. When driven to the Brink of Despair, they did not lose that Presence of Mind, which never desponds while any Glimmering of Hope remains; but like the Romans, who after the Defeat of Cannae, still possessed that undaunted Calmness of Soul, by which they perceived they were not totally undone, and continued to exert themselves vigorously every where; after this noble Example, the Dutch remained

unintimidated, unperplexed in all their Deliberations and Measures. Notwithstanding the French Armies and the English Fleets were furrounding them on all Sides, tho' the former had penetrated into the Heart of their Country, and the latter were besieging their very Shores, they yet had the Courage and Constancy to give up nothing for lost; and to provide equally for the Defence and Protection of every Spot that still was their own, and for the Recovery of all that had been wrested from them by the Enemy. Add to this, the spirited Indignation with which they rejected the base Proffers of Peace, or rather of Servitude, which the haughty Invader imagined their Distresses had sufficiently prepared them to receive. Add, what is much more, the unshaken Greatness of Soul which inspired them with that no less heroic, than unparalleled Determination, rather than embrace Slavery, to abandon their native Country, and transport themselves, their Wives, Children, Families, in a Word, their whole Nation, across the Ocean to the farthest Extremities of the Globe: So stupendous a Design could only have been conceived by
Enthusiasts

Enthusiasts for Liberty ; in the Cause of which, such a Species of Enthusiasm was truly sublime, and certainly reflected the highest Honour on those who were capable of it.

Thus it was the Dutch established their Liberty, in Defiance of the Tyranny of Spain, and maintained it against the Ambition of France. The Struggle in both Cases, was attended with the utmost Difficulties, and consequently with an immense Acquisition of Glory. The first had rendered them sufficiently famous ; but the second added a Degree of Renown still greater, from the superior Might of the combined Enemies, with whom they had to contend, and from the Capacity they were in, to resist so powerful a League, owing to the Progress which Labour, Industry and Commerce had been gradually making among them, during the Space of the foregoing Century:

THE Advantages arising from these Resources, they were but slightly acquainted with at the Æra of their Foundation ; and

they came to the Possession of Freedom, as the Inheritor of an Estate, of which the sole Value is to consist of his future Improvements. They shewed themselves, however, fully adequate to the Task Necessity had imposed upon them. In the Course of not many Years, a Country, Nature has been remarkably unfavourable to, became both habitable and pleasant. Towns and Cities were built, where Huts or poor Villages had stood for Ages before; their Frontiers were covered with Fortresses; they sent numerous Armies into the Field, and the most formidable Fleets upon the Seas; and, in short, proved themselves entirely worthy of that Independency, which, after they had nobly asserted it by a War of eighty Years Continuance, was adjudged by the unanimous Voice of all Europe, assembled at the Congress of Munster, to be a Reward amply due to their unremitting Efforts to preserve it.

SUCH is the general Picture of the Inhabitants of the Seven United Provinces; a People, as Thomson says of the Scots, "In Misfortune's School trained up to
" hardy

“hardy Deeds.” And one may not less truly add, most highly deserving of the Prosperity to which they have attained, and have now so long enjoyed: A Prosperity which, as it was not the Result of mere Contingencies, but the natural and necessary Consequence of Plans wisely laid, and spiritedly executed, promises, from the Permanency of the Genius that presided at its Commencement, to have a lasting Duration.

WHAT renders the Success of these Plans more admirable, is, that they were formed, carried on, and completed in the midst of a perilous and expensive War; and not during the Tranquility, Leisure, and Safety of Peace; the only Time when other Nations have turned their Attention to Schemes of this Nature.

THE Dutch seem to have superlatively fulfilled the Proverb of Horace, *Nil Mortalibus Arduum*, Nothing is difficult to Mortals, when they are obstinately determined to combat all Obstacles.

LEWIS the Fourteenth thought greatly of his forcing Nature at Versailles; what then must we think of the Victories of the Dutch over the perpetual Opposition they meet from it in so many prodigious Enterprises at Home? An Opposition the more powerful, as it will never end; and requires an equal Perseverance of Efforts, not to subdue it, which is impracticable, but in order to prevent it from subduing.

As Good, however, is sometimes educed out of the greatest Evils, from this unceasing Contention is produced that unyielding Disposition in the Natives, which has proved the most solid Basis of their Grandeur, and enables them, at the same Time, to claim a Species of Glory, no other Nation ever yet had a Right to; which is, that while other Countries maintain and support their Inhabitants, they, on the contrary, give in a Manner, Existence to the Land they dwell in.

FROM Causes of this Nature, and that exhaustless Fund of indefatigable Industry, the happy Consequences of which are diffused

fused over all the Face of the Land, Statesmen and Princes who have studied, and been desirous to promote the Welfare of their Subjects, and the Improvement of their Dominions, have sought the Means of these salutary Purposes chiefly in this Country. Thus, after the Cessation of the Civil Wars which had so terribly afflicted France, and the peaceable Possession of the Crown was secured to Henry the Fourth, when he and the Duke of Sully employed themselves in the patronising of Trade and Manufactures, the Dutch were the Patterns he honoured with his Imitation; by adopting their Maxims and Regulations in the Establishment of various Branches of Business; and nobly rewarding such of them as personally settled in his Realm, and were instrumental in forwarding those laudable Designs. The Steps of this Monarch, the best and greatest France ever had, were not less successfully pursued by the ablest Minister that Kingdom was at any Time blest with, the immortal Colbert, the real Founder of all its subsequent Greatness. Of latter Days, that Prodigy of Diligence and Activity, the celebrated Peter of Muscovy, made

made Holland the principal Object of his Attention, in the modelling, and Prosecution of those truly Royal Schemes and Resolutions he had framed for the Benefit of his vast Empire.

IN no other Country whatever, will a judicious Traveller find more Subjects of instructive Speculation. Excepting to those contemptible Individuals who saunter about the World in Quest of meer Amusement and Diversion, no Spot on Earth affords more noble Motives of Admiration and Respect for those who possess it, than Holland; where whatever political Abilities can perform has been so signally achieved.

IT was the Opinion of Themistocles, that the highest Proof of human Capacity, consisted in aggrandizing a small State; and conformably to this Sentiment, that great Man's Reputation, in his own Age, arose much less from his Victory at Salamis over the Persians, and the Deliverance of all Greece from those Invaders, than from the Re-establishment of Athens, and
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the Measures by which he laid the Foundation of the Importance and Superiority, his Countrymen obtained over all the other Grecian Cities.

ACCORDING to this Observation, what a Number of able Statesmen must have contributed to the Fortune of the Dutch; whose Beginnings, as their own Motto truly intimates, were so small, whose Increase of Strength and Consideration was so rapid, and the Duration of both which has been so permanent?

NOTWITHSTANDING most of their Neighbours have followed their Examples in the Cultivation of Commerce and the Encouragement of Industry, yet Holland still remains superior in both to all her Rivals and Imitators; and from the Tenour of its Constitution, is little apprehensive of the Diminution of this Superiority.

THERE is no Country where a Facility of settling is so universally unclogged with Impediments from national, civil, or religious Causes. The whole World is, in a Manner,

Manner, made welcome ; and a Participation of all Priviledges secured to every one by the generous Hospitality of the Government, which admits, with a noble Confidence, Individuals of all Countries into its Trust and Service.

HENCE it has been so plentifully supplied with the most useful Members in all Denominations. Its Cities have been stocked with Merchants, and Men of Business, from all those Parts where an impolitic Oppression denied them the Liberty of enjoying the Fruits of their Labour, without Subjection to Rapine and arbitrary Taxation, or of following the Dictates of their Conscience in Matters of Religion. Similar Acts of Injustice contributed no less to fill their Armies with excellent Officers and Soldiers from all Quarters.

THUS the Violation of those common Rights of Humanity, which had been the Cause of their primitive Insurrection, proved also the Means of peopling their Provinces; and may be assigned as the principal Channel through which the Wealth and Strength
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of other States have been transferred into their Hands.

ON their very Commencement, the Inhabitants and Riches of Brabant and Flanders, the most commercial and opulent Countries in Europe, were driven, by Tyranny and Persecution, into Holland; the Beginning of whose Prosperity and Exaltation may be ascribed to the Downfall of Ghent and Antwerp; on the Ruins of which unfortunate Cities its Grandeur speedily rose, by the Accession of those Multitudes of moneyed Burghers, and industrious Tradesmen and Merchants, who were formerly the Citizens of those once flourishing Places; and who deserted over in Crowds to a Land of Freedom and Security. The thirty Years War in Germany, brought them no less a Supply, in the middle of the last Century, when such Numbers fled from the Scenes of Desolation that unhappy Country was so long involved in. The Revocation of the Edict of Nantz, which deprived France of her most valuable Subjects, was also an Addition of People and Treasure to Holland, almost equal

equal to any of the two former. As the same Causes have been operating throughout Europe ever since, though not indeed with equal Violence, a constant, though less copious Emigration, continues from other Countries into theirs; which, notwithstanding Zealots and Abettors of Slavery have stiled it the Retreat of the Outcasts, and Refuse of all Europe, has often proved the Asylum of some of the most illustrious Characters in modern Ages.

No Sort of reasonable Encouragement is wanting to induce the Resort of all whose Talents may become of real Utility to the Public, either by the Importation of Improvements, or a Disposition to Labour and Industry, which in this Country is justly deemed a Qualification of the highest Value, and is accordingly cherished and assisted by the Legislature, with no common Care and Attention.

THAT Vigilance and patriotic Zeal which frequently, in other Nations, by deviating from Moderation, defeats its own Purpose, is, in Holland, accompanied with a Calmness that weighs impartially the Propriety

Propriety or Unfitness of all Measures ; and consequently excludes none from whence the State may derive any Benefit, however disgusting they may appear to the Inconsiderate or the Prejudiced.

HENCE, in the midst of that Resentment, it was natural they should feel on Account of the severe Treatment they had received from the Romanists, they still granted them, with no less Policy than Humanity, the most ample Liberty of exercising the Functions of their Religion ; while on the other hand, by not wholly divesting them of all national Employments, and yet debarring them of any Degree of Power that might rouse their Ambition, and incite them to exert their restless Antipathy for all other Persuasions, they have found Means to render them good Subjects in a Protestant State ; thus they have Admission into their Fleets and Armies, and may rise in either to a certain Rank. These, in their Turn, to do them Justice, have shewn themselves worthy of all these Favours by a faithful Discharge of their several Duties ; and it is no Exaggeration to assert, that the Romanists in the

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United Provinces are the most respectable of any of their Communion under a Protestant Government. They have an unfeigned Attachment to their Country, and are duly attentive to the Importance of that Maxim, the Observance of which would have prevented so much Mischief in the World, that our spiritual Concerns should never be allowed to interfere with political Transactions.

To this happy Spirit of universal Toleration is owing the humane Reception and Usage of the Jews; whose Wealth and Multitude in Holland, exceed those of their Brethren in any other Christian State; and who, to their truer Honour, afford a greater Number of worthy Characters here than any where.

THE same may be said of the many inferior Sects and Denominations of Christians, that abound in this Part of Europe, and who live here in the Enjoyment of a Tranquility, which, by setting their Minds at ease, banishes that Ferocity of Temper, which is the natural Consequence of Persecution,

cution, and leaves them full Power to follow, with Chearfulness and Serenity, the Bent of their Disposition, and to display those Virtues and good Qualities that are found in People of all Persuasions.

THIS total Deliverance from religious Oppression and Inveteracy, is the more remarkable, as it has taken Place in a Country which was once so much the Patrimony of the Church, that all the petty Sovereigns of its various Districts acknowledged themselves, formerly, the liege Subjects of the Bishop of Utrecht; and it was not till the Days of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, that this Prelate ceased to be Lord Paramount of upwards of twenty Principalities in the low Countries.

THE Founder of this ecclesiastical Grandeur, Charlemain, was certainly very excusable, when we recollect the Barbarousness of his Times, and the Piety of his Motives. But Philip the Second of Spain, who thought it incumbent upon him to imitate this Part of his Conduct, only shewed his Ignorance of the State of Man-

kind in his Days, and his own despicable Turn for Superstition; for both which he deservedly suffered.

SUCH a Lenity and Moderation in the Rules and Practice of Government, was the principal Motive that induced the European Powers to prefer Holland to all other Countries, as a Place of amicable Meeting for all Parties; where, from the Freedom and Unrestraint they had all an equal Claim to, they might indulge themselves in a friendly Discussion and Reconciliation of their Differences. This Preference began very soon after the Foundation of the Republic. We find that even so early as when the Spanish Armada was become the grand Subject of Attention in Europe; England, France, and Germany had their Ministers at the Hague; which, in a few Years after, became the Center of all public Negotiations; and whither even the Spaniards themselves at last repaired, in order to conclude the famous Treaty, to which they gave the Name of Truce. Not long after an additional Honour was conferred upon Holland, by the holding of that celebrated

celebrated Synod at Dort, where the universal Body of Protestants assembled for the first, and probably the last Time.

FROM this perpetual Concourse of Persons whose Abilities, from the Business committed to their Management, may justly be esteemed to have been of the first Rate, a Consequence was derived of signal Advantage to the State, in the many consummate Politicians who were trained in that School of Wisdom and Knowledge, formed by the constant Intercourse of the chief Members of the Republic, with the most able Negotiators from all the European Courts. Hence the great Names of Barneveldt, De Wit, Heinsius, Fagel, and many others, all Men of prime Eminence in their Station, and worthy to be cited as the most perfect Models of Ministers and of Patriots.

IT was no Wonder the State should prosper under such Men; the History of Holland, during their Administration, amply proves how adequate they were to the Charge they undertook; and when we re-

flect on the Happiness their Countrymen enjoyed while governed by their Councils, the Warmth of Expression it is so frequently commemorated with in Holland, is a Tribute to which they have the most reasonable Claim.

SWAYED by the Genius, and animated with the Spirit of such Guides, the Dutch, in all their Affairs both of Peace and War, shone forth with distinguished Lustre; and became superior to every Nation in Europe in whatever constitutes the solid Grandeur of a People. Through salutary Regulations in all that related to domestic Proceedings, they grew populous, and opulent at Home; and by the most deliberate and circumspectful Conduct in all their foreign Concerns, they were no less successful and respected Abroad.

IN no very long Space after they had shaken off the Yoke of Spain, about the Beginning of the seventeenth Century, they had rendered themselves an Example to all their Neighbours in the Science of internal Government; and by the noble, beneficent Usage of all who entered into their Service,

they had acquired the completest military List at that Time extant. No Army was then comparable to that of Prince Maurice, whether we consider the Skill of the Officers, or the Bravery and Discipline of the Soldiers. Actions of the most heroic Intrepidity were common among these ; such, to mention one only out of many, was that of him who desired his next Comrade to kill him, lest the Noise of his Coughing should alarm the Enemy, whom they were about to surprise ; an Instance of Magnanimity not inferior to that of the Piedmontese Soldier, who at the Siege of Turin, during the Wars for the Spanish Succession, blew himself up, with three hundred French.

WITH Armies composed of Men, among whom Feats of this Nature were not unfrequent, they were a full Match for the Spaniards at Land, though commanded by a Prince of Parma, and a Spinola ; while at Sea, no Competition subsisted between them and Spain ; whose Fleets they defeated, seized, or destroyed every where ; and whose Settlements they invaded in the remotest Quarters of the Globe.

THESE Triumphs were not more due to the Resolution of their Troops, and the Conduct of their Commanders, than to the Wisdom and Vigilance that planned their Operations, and the excellent Order their Finances were kept in.

THE Art of making the most of their public Revenues, no People, indeed, ever understood better than the Dutch, whose unparalleled Oeconomy was the Fund from whence they drew those Treasures that enabled them, even in the Infancy of their Commonwealth, to make a grateful, and no inconsiderable Return of the most timely Assistance to their generous Friend and Patron Queen Elizabeth, when menaced with an Invasion by the Spaniards, in the famous eighty-eighth Year of the sixteenth Century. The like Epocha in the following, was no less remarkable, when they fully requited their Obligations to England, for delivering them from the Tyranny of Spain. It was indeed a noble Requit; no less than the Revolution, for which the English Nation should never forget it stands deeply indebted to the Dutch; an Event that completely wiped off the
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the Stain cast upon their Character by the Affair of Amboyna ; which, however, was the Deed but of a few ; while the assisting in our Preservation, was the Work of the unanimous Councils of their whole Nation ; a Measure, it may be added, wherein it was happy for us they were as able, as willing, so powerfully to co-operate.

THE whole Tenour of their Conduct, was the same respecting other Nations. Ever watchful of what was doing, that might in anywise affect their Interest, nothing was transacted, throughout Europe, wherein their Intervention was just and proper, without their Appearance on the Scene of Action, with no less Credit and Dignity to themselves, than Benefit to the Party whose Cause they espoused.

THUS, by interposing in the Quarrels between Denmark and Sweden, in the middle of the last Century, the former was saved from impending Ruin ; and, on a more recent Occasion, the latter was effectually protected.

AN equal Attention was paid to other Kingdoms and States ; and no People ever

made more judicious Treaties, or observed their different Engagements with greater Honour and Fidelity.

It was, therefore, with the most equitable and rational Pride, they struck that famous Medal, which the Haughtiness of the Court, and Ministry of Lewis the Fourteenth, took such a groundless and iniquitous Offence at. The Truth was, they sought a Pretence to break with Holland; and for Want of a better, made use of this pitiful and ignominious Pretext, among others, by construing an elegant, and spirited Catalogue of the national Atchievements, and political Merits of that Republick, into an indirect Censure and Contempt of their own Proceedings. All Europe, however, bore Testimony to the Rectitude of the Dutch in their Assertions; and the triumphal Arches the French erected at Paris for their King, were, in fact, rather Monuments of his Injustice, and shameful Ambition, than of his Conquests, which both he and the World were conscious he had only made through Deceit and Surprise, over an unprovided and defenceless People;

People ; and which he was forced to abandon, with no less Rapidity than he had obtained them, as soon as they had recovered from the Confusion, so unforeseen, and so unexpected an Invasion had thrown them into ; and had put themselves into a Posture of Defence, by a new modelling and Augmentation of their Land Forces, and the Re-establishment of the Statholdership; an Expedient, of which the Efficacy was so apparent, at that Time, that it is not improbable, the Repetition of it in Favour of the present House of Orange, at the Close of the last War but one, was no small Inducement with the French to conclude a Peace, from the Recollection how little their former Attempts on the Dutch had prospered, after this salutary Step had been taken.

THE Propriety and Moderation thus exhibited by Holland in its Transactions with the European Powers, has, in a manner, endeared the Safety and Welfare of that flourishing Republic to all Parties and Persuasions, the French alone excepted ; who long ago, ever since the Decline of the Spanish

nish Monarchy, (to the Downfall of which, their Interest prompted them to contribute equally with the Dutch) have been meditating the Acquisition of those Provinces that form a necessary Barrier between France and that Commonwealth ; which, notwithstanding the Reputation of political Wisdom, it has so long and so justly enjoyed, seems less apprehensive of these encroaching Neighbours than formerly ; and to have forgotten the Arrogance and haughty Treatment it experienced from them, during their transitory Possession of the Spanish Low Countries at the Opening of this Century.

MANY are the Motives that incline the People of Europe to wish well to the Dutch ; whose profound and exquisite Policy has taken Care to establish a Connexion between themselves and other States, of such a Nature, that the public and private Affairs of both are become so intimately blended and interwoven, as not to suffer a Disjunction. This is a Piece of Skill of no recent standing. They begun the Practice of it not long after their primitive Settlement ; by interesting the principal Individuals throughout Europe in their Funds,

Funds, and rendering their Country the Channel and Center of all pecuniary Negotiations between States and Sovereigns; and even the Depository of their Treasures, as well as of the Riches of their Subjects.

WHILE thus attentive to the most effectual Means of securing themselves against Accidents from Abroad, they have neglected nothing that could in any shape contribute to render their Situation at Home comfortable. In order to accomplish this End, nothing has been spared either of Art or Labour; and it must be confessed, they never were employed more successfully. Notwithstanding the Beauty and Embellishments of their Country, are absolutely the Result of these Causes alone, yet they have been so judiciously exerted, that neither is, in a manner, perceptible; we may even add, that as a Man who emerges from Adversity to good Fortune, displays more Joy than one who never experienced Calamity, so Nature in Holland, wears an Aspect rather more flourishing and gay, than in those Parts where little or no Trouble is requisite to keep her in good Order.

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Though it must be admitted, at the same time, that, like a Constitution recovered from a bad Plight, it demands also the utmost Watchfulness and Care, in order to be prevented from a Relapse into its former Dreariness and Desolation.

OF this, however, there is no Danger, when we consider the Pains taken to obviate it by the Number of Hands so deeply interested in promoting the Prosperity of the Public through the Prosecution of their own; in no State whatever the general Weal being more nearly connected with that of Individuals: Hence it is, according to the Propensity we all have to cherish that most on which we have bestowed the largest Measure of Attention and Solitude, as much as from the natural Predilection of all Mankind for the Spot of their Nativity, that the Dutch are so remarkably attached to their own Country, having through their Ingenuity and Industry, rendered it the Seat of Wealth, Plenty, and Neatness: As such it is daily resorted to from all Quarters of Europe; not so much from Motives of Curiosity, as of a more essential

sential Tendency; those of becoming Residents in this Land of Opulence, and of partaking of the Benefits accruing to Abilities and Diligence, under a mild and easy Government.

As none but People of this Disposition are desirous of settling in a Country where Toil and Application are the only Means of Thriving, Holland acquires no Inhabitants but such as bring with them a Fund of Laboriousness and Activity, which alone is an immense Treasure; and if we attend to long Experience, has generally proved the principal, if not the sole Foundation, on which the greatest Fortunes have been erected.

To these Causes Holland owes a Populousness that will never decrease, while it retains its primitive Maxims of Lenity and Toleration; and while those of a contrary Nature continue to be adopted by the ruling Powers in other Nations.

INFLUENCED by so many Reasons, it is not surprising that such a Multitude of Foreigners should fix their Abode in a Part of
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the World so inviting to a considerate Mind, where a Spirit of Cleanliness and Decency beautifies every Object, and where whatever is capable of Improvement, receives it in the highest Degree; not such Kind of Improvement as gratifies the mere Sight, but that, and much more that which is of solid Utility in the great Concerns of Life.

IN this, they capitally differ from some of those Nations esteemed the most refined in Europe; who, while they abound with Master-Pieces in the Productions of Art, have unhappily forgotten the Cultivation of Nature, and suffered their Country to lie neglected, and unequal to the Necessities of the wretched Inhabitants. But even the Perfection of those Arts, in the Cultivation of which they so pride themselves, is in the Scale of Reason, only a Proof of the Levity and Insignificancy of Mind, of those whose Time and Means are so shamefully absorbed in their Patronage and Admiration, to the total Oblivion of those infinitely more laudable Pursuits which might have effected the universal Felicity of a whole Nation.

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It is in these great Branches of political Knowledge the Dutch confessedly excel all the rest of Europe, where most of the Governments, till very lately, attended more to the Intrigues and Designs of their Neighbours, or to the strengthening the Reins of domestic Authority, than to the ameliorating the Condition of their Subjects.

THESE are the Respects wherein the Dutch bear a most honourable Resemblance with the Carthaginians, to whom some have thought proper to compare them, with an invidious Intent. But, a few Cases excepted, they were a People with whom a Similitude is by no Means disgraceful. However they might act oppressively in other Instances, they were always particularly careful to disseminate their Knowledge and Talents in the Culture and Improvement of Countries, wherever their Empire extended ; and their Skill in those useful Arts was so eminent, that even their Rivals and Exterminators, the Romans, acknowledged their Superiority therein, and profited by their Lessons.

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IN Imitation of these celebrated Models, the Dutch have made it their incessant Business to search for all the various Sources of Fertility ; and to leave no Experiment untried, in order to draw from the Earth whatever Toil and Sagacity could command. Hence, notwithstanding the Multitude of Inhabitants that crowd their Cities, Towns and Villages, and overspread the whole Country, in a manner to which no other Part of Europe affords any Proportion, nothing is wanting of those Productions to which their Soil is adapted, or to speak with more Truth, which endless Care and Labour can possibly extract from it. Whatever the Nature of it refuses them, is regularly supplied by the most copious Importation, and such is their Foresight and Vigilance, that they have always enjoyed Plenty ; while the most fruitful Parts of Europe, even those from whence they draw the chief Articles of Sustenance in the greatest Abundance, have often, through Inconsiderateness, been reduced to the most deplorable Want.

A COUNTRY and People, where a discerning Inspector is able perpetually to discover
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so many Motives to admire their Indefatigableness and Ingenuity, can only displease the unthinking and vacant Part of Mankind. To such indeed, no Individuals existent can prove more unacceptable than the Dutch; who of all Nations possess the least of those superficial Attractions, the Acquisition of which is so assiduously sought, and so highly prized in most other Places; but which their Dispositions are too serious to lose any Time in attaining, and which their continual Attention to Matters of Moment, will not permit them to set any Value upon, or to consider in any other Light than at most of agreeable Trifles.

UNCEASING Complaints are made, on this Account, by such Travellers as, elate with those frivolous Qualifications, their Time and Money have been lavished to obtain, are no less piqued than surprised, to find how little Credit they procure in this blunt, uncomplaisant Nation; where the Weight of a Man's real Importance is the only Consideration that produces Regard and Respect.

SUCH a Turn of Mind, proves a constant, and highly mortifying Check on the Pertness and high Pretences of fundry itinerant Adventurers, whose Outside, however gay, cannot impose on those wary Observers of the whole Tenour of a Man's Conduct ; who are too well acquainted with the specious Characters which some of their Neighbours, the French and Germans especially, can occasionally assume, to suffer themselves to be deceived by the fairest and most plausible Appearances.

BUT as good and bad Qualities are often closely allied, it must not be denied that this Solidity of Thinking, and Depth of Circumspection, frequently degenerate into a contemptuous Indifference for all, the Prosperity of whose Circumstances is not well ascertained.

The Reasons of this harsh, uncouth Behaviour are obvious, and may be deduced from the very Nature of their political Constitution. As it is through Dint of Wealth alone they support their Country, and make a respectable Figure in Europe, they are apt
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to build too much on that Foundation of their Grandeur, and of Consequence entertain too excessive a Reverence for the Possessors, and too advantageous an Opinion for the Acquirers of great Property, whom alone they account Men worthy of Note, and whose other Qualifications, whether deserving of Praise or Censure, are passed over little noticed, and become, in a Manner, totally eclipsed by the superior Blaze of their Riches; an Object which, the most zealous Partisans and Admirers of the Dutch, will readily allow, engrosses their Attention and Esteem, and preponderates among them far beyond its intrinsic Merit.

In other Countries an Individual, though restrained to a Mediocrity of Fortune, may still appear amidst the Wealthy, without yielding them any Precedency on that Account; and if his Genius and Parts have rendered him otherwise conspicuous, he will usually meet, not only with Civility, but even Deference, and find himself on a Level with Persons of Importance by their Rank and Station.

But this is by no Means the Case in Holland, where Money, however highly it may

be valued in other Countries, is of much greater Consequence and Estimation than in any of them; and, as formerly at Carthage, is the only sure Road to Power and Preferment. He that has it not, will make but a vain Display of his Talents and Capacity, which, in such a Case, will rather become a Matter of Reproach to him for his Neglect of their most beneficial Use, in not employing them to procure himself Consideration from those Motives whose Influence is so universally acknowledged and felt by all Classes of Men.

Thus far, indeed, it is not without sufficient Cause the Dutch, like their Models, in many Instances, the ancient Carthaginians, consider Opulence as a very necessary Adjunct in the Enumeration of those Pretensions, on which a Member of the Community founds his Right of aspiring to the Rule and Direction of its Concerns; as the greater his personal Credit, the less Difficulty and Obstruction will attend his Exercise of legal Authority; not to forget that the more materially he is interested in the Welfare of his Country, the more it is, undoubtedly,

undoubtedly, to be presumed, he will be active in the Preservation of its Prosperity.

BUT it is, at the same Time, no less evident, that this prodigious Attachment to Wealth, and the Means of obtaining it, generally banishes from their Minds almost every other Consideration, and is the radical Cause of that Inurbanity in their Manners, of which Foreigners so much and so justly complain.

As the Acquisition of Riches forms usually the sole End of the Education and Study of Persons of all Degrees in Holland, they arrive at the Possession of their Desires, uninstructed in those Methods of enjoying an elegant Recess from their past Labours, that constitute, indisputably, the most rational Felicity; and which can only be derived from a competent Cultivation of their Understanding in the Season of Youth.

THIS Carelessness and Slight of intellectual Accomplishments, is unfortunately very diffusive; and doubtless the Source from whence flows that Aversion and Contempt

for whatever bears no Relation to their favourite Pursuit; which renders their Conduct and Deportment, so frequently supercilious and offensive to those whom they imagine to be on no Parity with them in that substantial Article, of which the less or larger Proportion that falls to the Lot of each Individual, diminishes or encreases the Measure of Worth and Value, for which they allow him Credit in their Estimation.

INSTANCES of this pecuniary Pride are frequent, and conspicuous among Persons in the inferior Classes, who have risen to affluent or easy Circumstances; most of whom indulge themselves in a Spirit of Arrogance, which, though commonly inseparable every where from People of low Breeding who have prospered in the World, is yet carried here to a superlative Degree of Excess.

EVEN the meanest of the Plebeians are possessed with so exclusive a Veneration for Pelf, to the utter Extinction of all other Incitements to Respectfulness in their Behaviour, that their Insolence and Rudeness
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are insupportable to those from whom they have nothing to expect; and unless when softened by Views of Profit, or overawed by Authority, they are absolutely untractable.

THIS Haughtiness, resulting from Opulence, is truly the national Vice of the Dutch; and prevails sometimes but too visibly among the first Men in the Land; who elated with those endless Gains, which an extensive Commerce is pouring into their Country from all Quarters, and of which the Dispensation is vested in their Hands, cannot forbear manifesting an insulting Consciousness, how much their Patronage is needed by those numerous Mercenaries of all Denominations, who resort hither in Want and Expectation of Employment.

THESE Airs of Importance are by none more frequently experienced than by their military Dependants; in many of whom, the Germanic Pride of Extraction, undergoes the most trying Mortifications, from the little Account that is made of it in the

rigorous Exaction of Duty, which all must expect who enter into their Service; and from which Nobility of Blood is so far from pleading an Exemption, that it often seems to be singled out as an Object of Animadversion, and deserving of those Checks, in which they are by no Means sparing.

Thus, it has been asserted, that in Consequence of some Commission in their Army, which either was designed to be conferred on, or was actually enjoyed by the late Statholder, in his younger Days, a celebrated Burgomaster of the Party in Opposition to the House of Orange, had the Confidence to propose the sending that young Prince to Batavia.

THE same Arrogance and Presumption found its Way into the Deputation of Members appointed to preside over their Armies in Flanders, while under the Command of the Duke of Marlborough, who often lamented the unhappy Exertion of their discretionary Powers, in thwarting the best laid Operations, and insolently proposing the Execution of their own Schemes:
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And it is well known that Prince Eugene detested the Sight and Admission of them into Council, and used to say that Alexander and Cæsar owed their Triumphs to the Absence of Dutch Deputies.

No less remarkable was their haughty Treatment of those Princes of the Empire, whose Troops and Persons were in their Pay; to whom, when Business required their Presence, they used to send Summons of Attendance with the same Peremptoriness that a General might assume with a Subaltern.

THIS Knowledge and experimental Conviction of the Ascendency of Riches over the human Mind, seems never to depart from the Reflexion of Dutch Grandees; and is the Root of that Self-Importance which betrays itself in their Proceedings, and renders them at best rather civil than engaging with their Inferiors in that Point.

HENCE that sociable Intimacy which excludes all Considerations but such as are founded on personal Agreeableness and Merit,

rit, is very rare in Holland; where Montefquieu's Observation of the Ties and Connexions between Individuals in England being rather Confederacies than Friendships, is still more applicable and apposite than among us, as their Affociations are much more evidently regulated by the reciprocal Proportion of pecuniary Circumstances.

FROM this Motive proceeds that indiscriminate Mixture of so many of the higher and lower Sort; between whom a Sympathy subsists in this Country, unknown elsewhere among the Members of these opposite Stations in Society; but which is powerfully effected here by that Approximation of all Degrees, which an Equality of Wealth operates in a Nation, where all mere nominal Distinctions of Rank are odious, and no Titles, but such as are annexed to Magistracy and official Employments, are acceptable. These excepted, Opulence alone settles the Precedency, and any other Pretensions are little minded.

OF this Grandeur and Consequence founded on the Possession of Riches, as no
Mortals

Mortals are fonder than the Dutch, so none exceed them in the Eagerness of their Endeavours to obtain it; and whatever Truth there is in the Imputation of their heavy, phlegmatic Temper in other Matters, their Activity and Warmth in the Pursuit of Money, are not inferior to those of the most mercurial Nations. When animated by this, their ruling Passion, they become absolutely other Men; and exhibit an Alertness and Vivacity, to which they are utter Strangers on other Occasions.

THIS Thirst, much less of Gain itself, than of the Greatness and Importance it confers, is the real, genuine Character of the Dutch; as the Possession, rather than the Enjoyment of it is apparently the Object of their Aims. Very different herein from the commercial Classes in other Parts, England and France particularly, where the End of acquiring Wealth, is the Pleasure accruing from its Use; and where the Practice of hoarding is nothing near so frequent as in Holland, where immense Riches and immense Avarice go very commonly together; and where, in Spite of the
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most flourishing Situation, Individuals are not very rarely guilty of living as miserably as if they were destitute of both Means and Hopes of ever prospering.

BEINGS exactly answerable to this Description, are undoubtedly the Produce of all Countries; but Holland is incomparably the most fertile of any in this Species; and abounds, beyond any European Nation, with a Race of Men whose only Ambition, Pleasure, Happiness, and Honour consist in having much Money. Such are, and long have been, according to constant unvarying Report, the greater Proportion of the mercantile People there. Intent wholly on amassing, they suffer but little Interruption from any transitory Gratifications; and pursue without Remissness the laborious Task they have undertaken. Watchful of all Opportunities, and embracing all Methods that seem promissory of Success, they are supremely industrious in rendering all Things subservient to this main Purpose, and far from being delicate in their Choice of Means.

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THOUGH Maxims of the same Tendency are well known and practised every where, yet they are adopted here with much more Prevalence and Latitude, as may well, indeed, be expected in a Country where a keen Appetite for Lucre is so far from being disgraceful, that a Man deficient in that national Characteristic, is in no wise reputed a valuable Member of the Community.

HENCE it is that a restless Assiduity in Business, is esteemed the primest Virtue, and that, 'till very lately, a moderate Share of Relaxation and Indulgence in the Pastimes usual among the genteel Classes abroad, was looked upon with an evil Eye by the Majority of the senior Members of the State, whose Opinion it was, that such outlandish Customs were subversive of that Disposition to Care and Oeconomy, to which their Welfare, and very Existence, were owing. For this Reason, they remained long averse to their Introduction; and were, at last, with no small Difficulty, prevailed upon to allow them a very restricted Toleration.

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THESE austere Notions have still many Abettors among elderly People, and the profest Admirers of their ancient Manners ; a rigid Adherence to which would, in their Opinion, highly contribute to the Benefit of the Public.

CONFORMABLY to these Sentiments, of which the Favourers are numerous, a particular Addiction to any of those foreign Amusements, is often unreasonably detrimental to a Person's Character, and draws as heavy a Load of Censure on it, as a settled Course of Idleness and Dissipation would give Occasion for elsewhere.

THIS Severity and Strictness in those who are possessed of Authority has, however, produced the salutary Effect of restraining the Propensity to expensive Diversions, and confining them in a Manner, to the only Spot where they cannot prove pernicious to the Generality ; as the Hague, where alone they can be said to flourish, is a Place of Residence only for those who best can afford to dedicate their Time to Pursuits

Pursuits of this Nature, which in Truth, seem so far from congenial to the Temper of the Natives, that were it not for the Concurrence of Foreigners, they would be very little known in this Land of Gravity and Parsimony; where few Recreations are set on Foot, but such as are perfectly consistent with the strictest Frugality; such as a Sunday Recess from the Occupations of the Week; a sober Family Visit; an Afternoon Country Walk, and Refreshment; or perhaps some Game calculated for Exercise and Health.

THESE are the most frequent, and to the Honour of the Dutch, the Methods of diverting themselves they relish most. For certainly such Pleasures as are the most simple, and easily procured, are also the most rational and beneficent, as not being apt to fatigue the Mind, and leave those Impressions in the Imagination and Memory, which are the Consequence of Enjoyments that require Study and Preparation.

A LIKE Sedateness and Temperance attends them in their domestic Regulations,
which

which form a Rotation of Order and good Conduct, that has the happiest Influence over all their Affairs.

To this Spirit of Exactness and Moderation, it is owing that those Things which, in other Parts, are Incitements to luxurious, expensive Living, are, in Holland, only the Means of leading, with Convenience and Decency, an easy and comfortable Life. Thus the Temptations of Affluence and Success in Business, cannot induce them to vary from the primitive Plan of parsimonious Carefulness to which they were originally bred. Their Houses and Furniture are neat, without being sumptuous; their Country Seats elegant, without Grandeur. A stated Rule of Proceeding is laid down, and inviolably observed in both Places; which, by a well-timed Distribution of the different Avocations assigned to them, become a successive Relief to each other, and render the Vicissitudes of Business and Relaxation, equally acceptable.

FROM this systematic Regularity, proceeds a minute Attentiveness to the slightest Occurrences,

Occurrences, that enables them to allow themselves, with Impunity, those Indulgences which, through Carelessness and Want of Arrangement, cut so deep into the Finances of Individuals in other Countries, and draw after them such a costly Train of unforeseen, and often unnoticed Expences; for the defraying of which (as no previous Calculation was made of them) the Provision intended in general, proves insufficient in the Detail, and usually occasions very pernicious Encroachments on the Funds destined for more necessary Uses.

THUS we see that Equipages, Banquets, Concerts, Assemblies, Balls, and the many other Concomitances of what is called High Life, seldom, if ever, affect the Circumstances of Persons in a genteel Sphere among the Dutch; whose excellent Discernment in managing with the utmost Propriety and Decorum, all these Kind of Concerns, is the more admirable, as they possess the Art of doing it, at once with Oeconomy, and yet with Splendor; and of reconciling at the same Time, a very small Share of Propensity to the Exhibition of such Scenes,

with an Appearance of Satisfaction and Complacence therein, that shews them to be complete Masters in the Science of accommodating themselves to all Tempers and Emergencies.

By this Conduct they never fail to engage the Approbation of even the greatest Connoisseurs in Magnificence; who, notwithstanding their Conviction of the Indifference of the Dutch for external Grandeur, any farther than Policy advises it, universally agree in pronouncing them as expert in their Notions of Shew and Parade, when Occasion requires, as if they acted from Inclination, and Attachment to such Things.

Thus our Charles the Second, who was justly admired as a most skilful *Arbiter Elegantiarum*, Judge of what was elegant, used often to declare, that of all the Displays of Pomp he had ever seen (and he had been Witness of many during the Travels of his Exile) none ever came up to the Superbness of his Reception in Holland.

THE foreign Ministers who have resided among them, and who certainly were Men every Way qualified to give a right Decision, have unanimously born Testimony to their exquisite Rectitude of Taste on all solemn Occasions; and concur in esteeming the Hague as polite a Place as any in Europe; and the Dutch People of Figure who inhabit it, inferior to none of the fashionable Classes in any other Country, whenever they think it incumbent on themselves to exert their Talents in the same Pursuits.

STRANGERS are, generally, much taken with the Manner of Living there, which has this particular Advantage attending it, that from the Variety of Customs peculiar to the different Nations, of which so many of the genteelest and principal Personages resort hither, a judicious Selection has been made that comprehends what is most acceptable in each; whence a Foreigner has the Satisfaction of finding himself in some Measure at Home.

THE learned, inquisitive, or polite Traveller cannot but delight in a Metropolis, which, in Proportion to its Dimensions, can boast a larger Concourse from all Parts, and is fuller of Men of Education, Abilities, and Knowledge of the World, than any City in Europe.

THIS Assemblage of the various Ways and Habits of Mankind within a moderate Compass, by subjecting them to a perpetual Inspection, has produced a Spirit of Criticism and Examination of their Justness and Propriety ; the Result of which has been the forming a Mode of Civility and Inter-course that may, with good Reason, be considered as a laudable Medium between the Excess and Deficiency in Politeness and good Manners, of which some Nations are equally guilty in the one, or the other Extreme.

NOT less agreeable was the Dutch Seat of Government a Century ago, than at present. The epistolary Correspondence of some very eminent Persons, in those Days, mentions

mentions it as one of the most inviting Spots to dwell in, from every Motive that influences a reasonable Man. St. Evremont, particularly, is lavish in its Praises; and speaks of its Dutch Inhabitants in a Stile full of those Sentiments of Respect nothing but real Merit can inspire; and which are exprest in a Manner that shews they were not Words of Course, but the Effect of deep Insight and Observation of their Conduct and Character.

OTHER French Writers, much less impartial, have represented the Dutch in a very unfavourable Light; and speak of them as being, with very few Exceptions, a rough, unpolished, ill-bred People.

IF we ascend no higher than the vulgar Classes, the Assertion is altogether true enough; but nothing can be more false, if we apply it to the better Sort. They are, it must be allowed, less inclinable to Society, and less tolerant of sudden Familiarity from Persons with whom they are unacquainted, than the French, who, as Erasmus in his *Diversoria* well observes, behave

with People, at first Sight, *Veluti cum Olim Notis ac Familiaribus*, as if they were old Friends and Acquaintance. But still they are sufficiently affable to satisfy a moderate Man, who can be contented with plain Manners, and who seeks not in a vain Flow of unmeaning Phrases, an Opportunity of making a suitable Return.

THE Truth is, the Dutch are, in general, a candid, downright People; and as Application and Industry are the only Paths they seek to tread in, and the only Helps they chuse to depend on, they neither study nor stand in Need of any Refinement in their Behaviour, which is usually attended with much Frankness and Simplicity; an Openness of Thought and Freedom of Speech, characterises most of them; and they seldom are conversant in Fraud and Deceit, for which indeed their native Bluntness very happily disqualifies them.

THIS Neglect of the Arts of Insinuation, or what some have not improperly termed Artifice and Flattery, has subjected them to the Censure of the difficult Part of Mankind,

kind, who require Blandishments, and a complimentary Stile from all they meet. These Talents they certainly possess not; but still, if Deeds are preferable to Discourses, there lies no just Complaint against them for Want of Humanity; in the real Exercise of which they are by no Means defective, as abundant Proofs may be given.

THAT they are of a friendly Disposition, and easy to live with, is evident beyond Dispute, from the Number of Strangers who settle and prosper there, without exciting any Jealousy among the Natives; who, perhaps, of all Mankind, are the least tinctured with the Vice of Nationality; and deal their Good-will and Favour indiscriminately to all who deserve them, without Inquiries about their Religion or Country. In these Respects the Dutch, not less to their singular Emolument than Credit, seem to be the People most practically sensible of the Truth of that fundamental Maxim of all political Felicity, which condemns to Oblivion those Accidents in a Man's Character, which, as he

cannot prevent them, he is not answerable for.

THEY have been accused of Inhospitallity, and a Shyness to Foreigners ; but when we reflect on the Frequency of these, the Suspicions that wait on the Character of many, and the Uncertainty which accompanies that of most, it is no more than reasonable and prudent, they should take Time to scan the Merits of their Guests, by the only sure Test, that of their Conduct, which when Praise-worthy, never fails to entitle them to all the Encouragement they have a Right to expect.

IT has also been said they are deficient in personal Generosity, and very unwilling to grant pecuniary Assistance ; but this may be partly accounted for by the perpetual Use their incessant Vigilance and Industry are employed in pointing out for their Money ; and by the Experience most of them have had, that few Persons, watchful of Opportunities, need ever be driven to the Necessity of depending on another's Bounty. These Considerations, one may presume,

sume, contribute to harden their Hearts against the Solicitations of those Individuals, whose Poverty arises from Self-Neglect; and who therefore stand little or no Chance of any Countenance in Holland; where a manifest Continuity of Endeavours to thrive, is the only Recommendation to Patronage, which, in Case of such a Credential, is not difficult to obtain; as Frowns and Censure are never the Portion of Indigence when unmerited, and incurred through the unavoidable Mischances that will sometimes befall the most prudent. Distress of such a Nature is always sure of meeting with Comfort and Relief; and none are abandoned to their evil Destiny, but such as are unfortunate through their own Fault. There is no Country where greater Scope is given, as well by public as by private Support and Furtherance, to those Talents whose Exertion is the most lucrative to the Possessor; as may be clearly evinced by attending to the Methods practised in the settling and improving of their Plantations Abroad, and the carrying on many of their commercial Undertakings at Home; both equally profitable, through
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the Wisdom of their various Regulations, to all the Parties concerned in these seldom unsuccessful Adventures.

ALLOWING, therefore, for that modish Vice among them of Complacency and Exultation in their superior Riches, which naturally engenders some Degree of Indifference and Slight for such as are Inferiors in this Particular, we are not to refuse them an Acknowledgement of the many good Qualities which amply counter-balance these Defects ; which, after all, are but too commonly found every where, and possibly fall under so much Notice and Censure here, only from the greater Number of Individuals in Circumstances that set them above unnecessary Complaisance, and that are apt, at the same Time, to infuse a Confidence and Overbearingness, which nothing can counteract but those Principles of Gentleness and Moderation, instilled by a liberal Education ; an Advantage very few of them possess from the general Neglect in their early Days, of every Thing that is not conducive to pecuniary Profit.

THIS,

THIS, to the Dutch, is an Object of the same Consequence, Glory and Conquest were formerly to the Romans, and for which their Avidity is equally restless and impatient. As that military Nation treated, a long Time, Arts and Learning with such Contempt, that *Literae in Homine Romano*, a Man of Letters at Rome, as Cicero tells us, was a Prodigy ; and such Attainments were deemed trifling, as being useless for the great and sole End of their Politicks ; in the same Manner, that studious Politeness, and those refined Modes of Intercourse which, though they may be graceful and captivating, are not the Sources from which Wealth is expected to flow, for that Reason are held cheap, and accounted frivolous by a commercial People, wholly ingrossed by that capital Object.

SUCH a Disposition excludes not, however, the Knowledge and Practice of those Virtues, which are most essential to Society ; and as the Romans, though rude and fierce in their primitive Ages, were yet
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noble and generous, (never, indeed, more worthy of the two latter Epithets, than when deserving of the former) so the Dutch, in the midst of that Ardour for Lucre, which is their ruling Passion, have shewn the most real and effectual Attention in promoting whatever could contribute to the solid Welfare of every Individual in their Commonwealth.

THEIR Beneficence and Charity have been of a comprehensive and a providential Nature; and, by obviating the Introduction of Want and Misery into their Country, have proved as superior to the Humanity that relieves Distress, as the Science which prevents Disorders, is above that which cures them.

THUS, by a Chain of Regulations inspecting with the minutest Precision into the internal Situation of the State, every component Member thereof, however obscure and seemingly insignificant, has been made subservient to the public Good, by nipping the Root of Indolence in the Bud, and

and compelling every one to exert himself according to his Faculties.

To this Vigilance over Individuals, was long owing their happy and honourable Exemption from that Disgrace to a civilized Country, the Toleration of Mendicants ; none were suffered in Holland, till very lately ; and these, to do Justice to the Dutch Police, are yet so few in Comparison of the Numbers infesting other Countries, as hardly to give Sanction to any Notice of them.

A SIMILAR Spirit of Watchfulness has presided in every Province and Department, wherein the common Interest has been the least concerned. Like the Romans, who thought it not beneath the Dignity of their primest Nobles to superintend the Edifices and public Works of their City, and to keep the Roads and Ways in good Order, the Dutch have always confided the Care and Management of whatever related to the Safety, Convenience, or Embellishment of their Country, to the most distinguished Persons of
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the State ; and how these have acquitted themselves of the Task, the Admiration of all Europe can testify.

THE Expediency of committing a Charge of this Nature to Men of Rank and Abilities, appears in nothing more than in the Sagacity they have shewn by turning to a political Account every Opportunity thrown in their Way. Sensible that Commerce was to be the Foundation of their Country's Prosperity, they have employed all their Thoughts and Endeavours to accomplish whatever might be of Tendency to its Encouragement. To render Communication and Dispatch, the chief Promoters of Trade, easy and cheap, they have intersected the whole Land with Canals, thro' Means whereof the most immense Business is transacted with the utmost Facility. These also produce two other good Effects ; they accustom their People to Oeconomy and Water-Travelling ; not to forget that by placing mercantile Scenes perpetually in their View, they remind them, on every Occasion, of what an Inhabitant of Holland ought always to bear in his Remembrance, that the Cultivation
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of Commerce is the main Fund he has to trust in for his Country's Welfare and his own.

FROM this same Source of Circumspection and patriotic Zeal, has proceeded an Attention to every salutary Measure pursued by other trading States, in all Ages and Countries; and an expeditious Imitation of every Example that could be advantageously followed. Thus they adopted and improved, beyond Compare, the System of national Banks, first invented in Italy, the Mother-Country of all commercial Institutions in modern Times; and that which they established at Amsterdam soon became, in the North, what the Model it was originally formed upon, that of Venice, (once the most flourishing and powerful Republic in Europe) had been so long in the South.

CONSCIOUS that Integrity was the sole Basis whereon so weighty a Fabrick could stand with Security and Permanency, they laid themselves out to convince all Nations of the inviolable Fidelity with which a Business

finess of so public and so important a Concern was carried on; and answerably to their Wishes, the prodigious Credit and Reputation to which it shortly rose, nobly rewarded their Efforts to bring so vast an Undertaking to Strength and Maturity.

THEIR Probity in the Administration of this precious Trust, became signally conspicuous; and was illustrated to their highest Honour, in the dangerous Year Seventy-two, during the last Century; when surrounded by apparent Destruction on every Side, they still maintained, with the strictest, and to themselves most detrimental Punctuality, at that perilous Time, their Faith and Engagements with all who were concerned in that Repository of Riches; many of whom, in order to augment their Distresses, and deprive them of the Means of restoring their Affairs, were basely set on by the Emissaries of their Enemies to withdraw their Shares: to say nothing of the Multitudes who were actuated by real Fear to make the same Demands. In this Extremity, of which had they made a Plea to temporize and protract the Term of re-funding,

funding, Humanity could not have accused them of a Violation of their Contracts, they remained constant in their Resolution not to depart, one Moment, from the most rigid Maxims of Honour. Every Proprietor that appeared was instantly satisfied; and every legal Requisition was answered with a Readiness and Alacrity that astonished all Europe.

A STILL more stupendous and daring Project, was that of their East and West-India Companies, which they formed the bold Design of erecting on the Conquest of the Settlements possessed by the Foe during the Space of more than a Century. Obstacles of various Denominations stood in their Way; of which the immense Distance, and the prodigious Expence, were the least. A Resistance, and that of the most obstinate Nature, was foreseen, not only from the Principals themselves, but also from the many Nations long habituated to the primitive Tenants, attached to them by the powerful Ties of Consanguinity and Religion, and filled with Apprehensions

fions of suffering in their Interest by a Change of Masters ; as one may well imagine, that no Means were omitted to represent the New-comers in as disparaging and odious a Light as was necessary to excite the Malevolence of the Natives against them. Add to this, the terrible Burden of a War which was waging at their own Doors, and wherein they were often compelled to fight literally *pro Aris et Focis*, for their very Habitations and Families, and all that is dear to Mankind.

IN the midst of these Difficulties, their Behaviour fully refuted the Description which Cardinal Bentivoglio too hastily gave of their yet infant State, when he calls it *Respublica casu conflata quam Metus Hispanorum continet*, a Commonwealth huddled up by Chance, and kept together through Fear of the Spaniards. This Dread of the Power of Spain existed, however, but in his own Imagination. Its Strength had been proved to the utmost, and found inadequate to the Task of overcoming those resolute Republicans, even when they had been reduced

duced to so forlorn a Condition, as almost to despair of ever retrieving their Affairs; and at a Time when a Member of the then truly distressed States, (as they scrupled not to acknowledge themselves) prefaced a Speech on their melancholy Situation by the celebrated Line of Virgil,

Sola Salus victis nullam sperare Salutem,

Intimating thereby, their only Hopes lay in taking the most desperate Resolutions.

SUCH were taken accordingly; and when in Consequence of the fortunate Effects they produced, their Preservation was happily secured, they undauntedly sallied forth, and assaulted the Enemy in those very Quarters he thought safest from their Remoteness. Thus they carried their Arms into both the Indies; and executed their Plans, not more to the Surprise and Terror of their Adversaries, than beyond their own most sanguine Expectations; and though, through the Concurrence of many unforeseen Events, but a small Portion remains of their Western Conquests, those they retain

in the East, make ample Compensation for that Loss: an Empire has been established Abroad, subservient to the Direction and Command of a supreme Authority at Home, which, to the Wonder of all Europe is, by the admirable Skill and Contrivance of their Politicians, so formed as to constitute an *Imperium in Imperio*, so far from interfering with, or obstructing the Operations of Government, that it has hitherto proved its most effectual Support; and may, without Exaggeration, be deemed the principal Pillar of the Grandeur of Holland, which attained in the Course of a few Years after its Establishment, to that Pitch of Opulence and Prosperity, the great De Wit has so circumstantially described in his famous Treatise on the Interest and Politics of his Country; whose Riches and Populoufness were, in his Time, encreased to tenfold what they were a Century before; and whose Importance and Dignity went Hand in Hand with that of the most considerable States in Europe.

WHILE thus attentive to the great Objects of beneficial Consequence to the Public,
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lic, none of the secondary Mediums instrumental to that End were overlooked. Thus they framed the compleatest Body of Regulations for the good Order both of their naval and military List, that modern Ages had ever yet produced. A Measure which, however salutary, had till then, been unaccountably neglected by the European Powers; whose Fleets and Armies, except in what related to the Field of Action, were, in many Respects, utter Strangers to Discipline and Regularity.

To inforce this necessary Spirit of Obedience and Subordination, Individuals employed in the Trade and Navigation of private Adventurers were subjected, in like Manner, to a Course of Rules, which though not so coercive and severe as the former, still were of essential Service in restraining the ferocious Disposition of these rough Classes of Men, and inuring them to Tractability and Submission.

The happy Fruits of these useful Schemes, did full Honour to the Source from whence

they sprung; the decent orderly Behaviour of the Dutch Mariners and Soldiery wherever they are stationed, has been exemplary ever since; and often proved a Model of Imitation to more than one State, in the northern Parts of Europe especially.

THAT industrious Vigilance and Penetration which lets nothing pass unnoticed, and foresees what great Effects may be produced from inconsiderable Causes, entered into all their Councils, and led them to discuss Matters with the minutest Accuracy, and to avail themselves of whatever might be serviceable, however seemingly of small Importance. Thus, by perpetuating the Remembrance of the Dangers they had encountered with so much Resolution, to diffuse a Spirit of Bravery throughout their People, they carefully encouraged anniversary Commemorations in such Places as had signalized their Zeal in the common Cause; and in order to rouse the Emulation of their own Times still further, by a Retrospection of the past, their Predecessors, the ancient Batavians, were artfully recalled to

public Notice, and the most remarkable and shining Passages of the valiant Resistance they made against the Romans, were engraven by the most skilful Artists, and accompanied with the explanatory Text of *Tacitus*, from whose History the Subjects were taken. Copies of this Performance were dispersed among their Neighbours, the Flemings, to awaken the Memory of their former Liberty, and to animate them in favour of a Cause that was once their own, of which they could not forget they were the original Assertors, and for which they had so severely suffered.

NOTWITHSTANDING the full End proposed by this, and other Measures of the same Tendency, did not then take place, yet the Proximity of a free Nation, whereof they had lately made so considerable a Part, so far influenced the Disposition of the Inhabitants of the Low Countries, as to cherish in their Minds a very strong Attachment to their Privileges, and a violent Abhorrence of Oppression. Hence the various Princes, whose Subjects they have successively been,

at different Periods, have treated them with much more Mildness than any People of their other Dominions. Lest by stretching Despotism too far, the Expediency and Facility of throwing off the Yoke, and of forming a Confederacy with the United Provinces, might tempt them to embrace so obvious a Measure.

IN the mean Time, however, the main Design the Dutch were aiming to compass by the Union they so ardently wished and laboured for, of Brabant and Flanders to their Republic, has been brought about since by the famous Treaty, which assigned them a so long desired Barrier between them, and the only Power whose Neighbourhood they have Reason to look upon as formidable.

IT ought nevertheless to be observed, that their Talents for Negociation, of which they had always given undeniable Proofs, were manifested, on this Occasion, in so partial and selfish a Manner, as to raise the Jealousy even of that Ally, under whose
Auspices

Auspices they obtained such an Addition of Honour and Advantage.

BUT this was not the first Time they had given just Cause for Umbrage at their Proceedings. An Alertness in seizing every Opportunity to secure their Interest, to the Exclusion of that of all other Parties, had long been a Vice inherent in their Character. They had ever shewn themselves so resolutely determined to pursue it, to the most cruel and irreparable Detriment of all who might happen to come in for a Competition, that shortly after their Formation into a political Body, one of the prime Exploits they performed was to ruin at once the Commerce of Antwerp, by sinking Vessels, loaded with Stones, in the Mouth of the Scheld; thus shutting up, for ever, the Entrance of that River to Ships of Burden.

THE Truth is, the Dutch have carried the Selfishness of Patriotism to very immoderate Lengths; and, like the Romans, seem to have been fully persuaded that

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Omnes omnium Caritates una Patria complexa est, that the Love and Partiality for one's Country ought to supersede all other Considerations. Nothing but a Determination to adopt the Practice of this Maxim in its fullest Extent, could have induced them to act occasionally with a Severity which exposed them no less to the lawful Censure of the World in general, than to the well founded Complaints of the Sufferers in particular.

BUT not to dwell on Transactions of which the Recollection ought, if possible, to be entirely obliterated on either Side, suffice it to say, that in some Instances, they made Equity give Way to Interest in a Manner totally inconsistent with the Rules of Honour and Gratitude, and for which no Atonement could have been too ample, and scarce any Chastisement too severe.

AND yet Advocates have arisen in their Defence, who have asserted, that as Injustice admits of Extenuation when the Perpetra-
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tor is compelled, as it were, by Necessity, to have Recourse to it for his Preservation, so by a Parity of Reasoning, the political Situation of the Dutch was such, as obliged them to let slip no Opportunity of establishing themselves, at all Events, wherever they had the least Expectation of commercial Profit, on which alone they depended for their Support and their very Existence, that urged by such pressing Motives, it was no Wonder if they were sometimes guilty of stretching the Power given them by fortunate Accidents, beyond its due Bounds, while other States, whose Welfare was not wholly founded upon Trade, by being placed out of the Reach of the like Temptations, have also been less liable to incur the same Guilt.

WITHOUT entering into a Confutation of such an Apology, one may dismiss impartially this disagreeable Subject, by acknowledging that Imputations of this Sort, need not be restricted to the Dutch ; and that few, if any European Nations, have been completely innocent in these Respects.

HOWEVER,

HOWEVER, if we condemn the Consequences of this restless Spirit of Avidity Abroad, we cannot but admire the Depth of Policy and Foresight which countenanced them at Home, and knew how far they might be supported and encouraged with Safety, as well as when to retract and disavow them. To this Art of timing properly their Compliance or Refusal, they are indebted for no few Successes in many of their commercial Enterprises, and the peaceable Enjoyment of numberless Advantages, which having found Means to obtain, through Connivance or Remissness, they at last pleaded a Title to through Custom and Prescription.

THUS, by attending to the Circumstances of Strength or Inability, their Antagonists were in, to enforce their Demands, and by a seasonable Exertion of Prudence, Firmness, and Patience, according to the Temper and Genius of those with whom they had to deal, they successively baffled the Resolution, the Policy, and the Resentment of
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their Adversaries ; and overcame Difficulties, by contriving to face them singly, which they could not have mastered, had their Opponents taken the Precaution to throw them alltogether in their Way.

IN this Manner they exercised their Skill with many a State ; and in the universal Course of their Dealings were still the Gainers, notwithstanding they certainly were met by no Novices in Politics in these Trials of Dexterity ; and though many of the Parties they were thus engaged with, esteemed themselves far their Superiors in the Science of those Subtleties and Finesses upon which some Statesmen set so high a Value.

THIS constant uniform Exertion of their utmost Abilities in the ruling Members, for the Service of the Public, was absolutely necessary in order to keep its Attention fixed on the Advantages resulting from their Labours, and to prevent its Enquiry into the Nature of a Government, the Administration of which was, by Degrees, becoming purely aristocratical. Hence
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also, to obviate the Invidiousness which the Manifestation of a Circumstance so grievous to the Feelings of their People might occasion, they have neglected no kind of Policy that could contribute to conceal this disagreeable Truth from common Perception.

To do this effectually they had but two Methods ; these were an equitable Administration, and a total Exclusion of that personal Display of Authority and Grandeur which chiefly renders Power the Subject of so much Envy. These they embraced accordingly, and have ever pursued, with a Perseverance and Steadiness that reflect the highest Honour on their Conduct ; and which the Partisans of a Democracy must allow to have produced as salutary Effects, as the best imagined Regulations, founded on the most free, uninfluenced Concurrence of a whole People, could ever have accomplished.

THE Fact is, that this Aristocracy of the Dutch, depends intirely on the prudent
and

and impartial Behaviour of those who exercise it: whenever the least Tendency to Haughtiness or Oppression, or to Measures contrary to the common Weal have made their Appearance, or been even suspected, the People have taken the most unrelenting Revenge.

BUT Causes of Discontent have been so rarely given, that no other Nation has, under a Patrician Government, ever enjoyed so much Tranquillity; a Proof of the Temper and Moderation of those in Command, and no less of the good Sense and happy Disposition of the Subjects thus governed; as it certainly shews them to be free from Turbulence and Factiousness, and not unwilling to suffer the Ambition of a few to prevail, provided the Consequences be not detrimental to the essential Concerns of the whole; a Maxim not sufficiently attended to by those who assert the Necessity of an equal Repartition of successive Authority among the Members of a State, in order to preserve its Liberty; an Opinion, the Favourers of which, seem too ready to forget
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that the Motives of many in their Endeavours to become powerful, arise not so much from a Thirst of Power, as a Desire of having the Opportunity to render themselves conspicuous, and respected for their Services to the Community.

THIS Tractability of the Dutch proceeds not, most certainly, from a Dastardliness and Pusillanimity of Spirit. They have given signal Evidences of the contrary ; and have made the World sensible that when provoked, they are very untameable, till their Wrath has had its Vent. Thus when persuaded that the De Witts were the Causes of the Calamities that had brought their Country to the Brink of Perdition, their Outrageousness knew no Bounds ; and lest judicial Proceedings might not second their Resentments, the merciless Populace had Recourse to an immediate Massacre of those equally illustrious, and unfortunate Statesmen.

THE same popular Resolutions, which though tumultuous and wrong principled
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in the preceding Case, were founded on a rational Conviction of their Rectitude, in the latter, placed the late Stadtholder at the Head of the Republic; and though some superficial Observers have taken Liberties with the Character of the Dutch on account of these irregular, and seemingly desperate Proceedings, yet the Experience of Ages has shewn that in those rapid and instantaneous Determinations of the Body of a People, States have often found their Safety and Renovation.

FEW, however, have the Insurrections been among the Inhabitants of a Country, where Lenity in the Use of Power, and a Condescension to their Wishes and Expectations, have always characterised their Governors; and where the Cautiousness of these in avoiding the most distant Possibilities of giving Offence, is carried so far as even to shun, with the utmost Studiousness, that Appearance of Superiority which the exterior Forms of State usually annex to Individuals in high Stations. Hence, notwithstanding the Reality of their Importance,

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tance, the Burgo-Masters, and other Persons in eminent Posts, affect a Plainness and Simplicity in their Manners and Stile of Living, that takes away the Idea of their uncontrouble Supremacy ; while, at the same Time, they govern with an absolute Sway, and confer all civil Places and Employments on whom they think proper ; and with such a Plenitude of Power, as to gratify their nearest Relations and Friends, without exciting any Complaint, or even Diffatisfaction.

THE Reason of this Acquiescence, and Forbearance to find Fault with the Conduct of their Magistrates, is, that Riches being the Title by which a Connexion is procured with the greatest ruling Families, the industrious, who constitute the major and leading Part of the Nation, see no Exclusion to their Hopes of becoming, in their Turn, of sufficient Consideration to rise by such Means to Importance and Command. In the mean Time, as their Pride is not hurt by those Exhibitions of Sovereignty, and official Splendor so prevalent in other Nations,

Nations, and Equality of Opulence inducing a Familiarity of Behaviour that supercedes the Dignity of Employments, except in the very Act of fulfilling them, the Authority and Weight of those who possess them, is not seen or felt in any Manner but what shews them on the same Level with those over whom they preside, by the Parity of Obedience they profess to their own Ordinances, in common with their fellow Subjects, and by the respectful Attribution of sole Empire and Majesty to the Laws ; as the Executors of which only they pretend to, and expect Submission and Compliance, and not as deriving such Claims from any Right of Dominion inherent in themselves.

SUCH are the popular and judicious Methods by which the patrician Interest is upheld in Holland, and flourishes unenvied, and almost unperceived.

CONFORMABLY to these Maxims, in their very Beginnings, a few leading Men, by avoiding all Appearance of supreme Command, and by arrogating no external Marks of Pre-eminence, insinuated

themselves into the favourable Opinion and good Graces of their Fellow-Citizens; who, charmed with their Affability, and with the Simplicity of their Deportment, saw no more in them than the laborious, indefatigable Servants of the Public. Thus the Plainness and Frugality of a Barnevelt, and his illustrious Associates, excited, at once, the Admiration and Respect of Europe; and what was of much greater Consequence to the common Cause, attracted the Imitation and Confidence of his Countrymen, who were convinced there could be no Danger in resigning themselves, with the utmost Implicitness, to Men who gave such Proofs of their Contempt for all empty Parade, as were a sufficient Earnest of their harbouring no Desire of accumulating the Means to support it.

So forcible a Display of patriotic Disinterestedness was, indeed, necessary at a Time when every Virtue allied to Parsimony and Self-Denial, was requisite to make the most of a Stock that arose from nothing but extreme Toil and Industry; and when a
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Shew of Equality, and a Spirit of social Benignity, were absolutely indispensable to cement all Degrees in a Cordiality of Union.

THESE great Examples left such profound Traces in the Memory of those who had been Witnessees of them, that a traditional Rule was formed, and handed down to Posterity, whereby the following of them has been made a Kind of tacit Law, from which, to the very peculiar Honour of the Dutch, there are few, if any Instances, of Deviation.

HENCE, in succeeding Times, long after the Foundations of their Republic had been laid on the firmest Basis, and the noblest Superstructure erected upon them, at an Epocha when they were become the powerfullest Nation at Sea, and the wealthiest People at Land of any in Europe, we find that, like the ancient Romans, in the glorious and triumphant Periods of the Commonwealth, when they vanquished a Pyrrhus and a Hannibal, and brought the Grecian Empire under Subjection, they still

retained their primitive Manners in the midst of every Temptation to desert them. Thus, while a Van Tromp, a De Ruyter, and many other memorable Names, were asserting the Honour of their Flag, and carrying the Terror of their maritime Force through so many Seas, and while, at the same Time, their Treasures seemed inexhaustible, from the prodigious Sums they continually expended in defending themselves so vigorously on every Side, and in the generous Assistance and Protection of their Allies, still the Heads of the State sought no other personal Lustre, but that which resulted from their Actions and Councils, and reserved all Grandeur and Magnificence for public Occasions. The great De Wit, the Soul of all their Politics, a Man whose Character stood on a Parity with that of Monarchs, scarcely ever used an Equipage; and had no other domestic Attendance than that of a private Gentleman.

IN Imitation of such excellent Models, all other Individuals conducted themselves with an Oeconomy and Moderation that became

became proverbial throughout the European Nations ; and was the more astonishing, as they possessed the Means of Luxury beyond them all.

BUT their Temperance and Aversion to all Excesses, were always no less conspicuous than their Affluence ; and it is the singular Praise and Glory of the Dutch that, as the Carthaginians were of old, they have been the only People in modern Ages, among whom Riches have not wrought their usual Effect, that of introducing Effeminacy and Prodigality.

THIS Spirit of Abstemiousness, so uncommon elsewhere, continues in full Force to this Day ; and the Meetings of the States, at the Hague, are held with such a Stillness, and Absence of Pomp and Ostentation, as surprises those Foreigners who have seen the Pageantry exhibited in their own and other Countries, on much less important Emergencies.

IT is this Neglect of the Decorations and Trappings of Ambition, that enables
P 4 them

them to indulge in the Enjoyment of a real and solid Power ; of which, however, it cannot be denied, their Exercise is so equitable, that no Burdens of any Kind are imposed, of which they bear not their full Proportion ; and whether in ancient or latter Times, History mentions no Government where a more impartial Equality of Taxes was ever known.

To the Knowledge and clear Perception of this Conduct is owing the great Authority and Credit of the Rulers in Holland, and not to a blind and ignorant Prejudice in their Favour.

PREPOSSESSION is by no Means the Failing of the Dutch ; when a Man obtains Popularity among them, it must be through actual Services. Oratorical Declamations are little regarded, and the personal Merit of the Speaker only can give Weight to what he says. Hence, as their phlegmatic Disposition effectually prevents their Submission to the undue Influence of rhetorical Artifice, inflammatory Publications avail nothing to the Party from whence they proceed,

proceed, unless the Assertions they contain are consistent with the strictest Veracity, and universally avowed. As the People are too cool and wary to be led away by mere Speciousness of Reasoning, Facts are the only Objects of their Consideration, and from these alone they form their Judgment; nor from these, until they are well verified.

FROM this happy Cautiousness of Temper, and Backwardness to decide, unless on sure Grounds, personal Fame is far from being so subject to Uncertainty and Fluctuation in Holland, as in other Countries; where an Individual experiences frequently such Vicissitudes of Approbation and Censure, of Contempt and Applause, as to become, at last, insensible to either; a Situation of Mind fatal to the Cause of Virtue, whose Existence, in no small Measure, depends not only on the Pleasure of Consciousness, but on the Reward it receives from a good Reputation; and fatal therefore to the State itself, whose Welfare and Prosperity is owing to the Endeavours of those who are concerned in its Management to
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merit the Esteem and Suffrages of the Public ; but who, on finding its Praise or Blame injudiciously and rashly bestowed, will undoubtedly remit of their Zeal and Eagerness to pursue its real Interests ; and in order to preserve themselves from the general Odium, and remain acceptable to the Multitude, will make it their Study rather to please than to serve their Country.

THE Reflexion how much, nay, how entirely, their Importance and Sway are founded on the favourable Opinion of the People, is doubtless the Cause of those perpetual Efforts to deserve it, that are so conspicuous in all who are intrusted with public Affairs in Holland. Hence the Assiduity and Diligence with which every Department is administered, each Incumbent faithfully directing his strictest and most vigilant Attention to the Duty of his respective Office, and allowing himself but few of those pleasurable Avocations, which in Governments less carefully regulated, are considered as so many Privileges and Benefits annexed to Preferment.

THE small Portion of Leisure remaining from the Calls of Business, affords, indeed, but few Opportunities for Indulgences of this Nature; as notwithstanding there is no State whatever where a greater, if an equal Degree of Circumspection prevails in providing for the most ample and complete Discharge of every Function necessary for the well-being of the Community, yet that Genius of Frugality which inspires the Individuals of this Country in their private Transactions, presides with no less Influence in what relates to the common Concern; and in the Distribution of the various Posts and Stations intended for the carrying on of the public Service, has admitted of none superfluous; none of those so well known in other Parts, and so properly denominated Sine-Cures. Even in the Establishment of such as were of absolute Use and Necessity, no Indulgence has been granted to the Love of Ease, by enlarging their Number, in order to lessen their Toil; a sufficient Degree of which is assigned to all Employments to keep fully alive the Spirit of Labour, and to exclude all Incitements to Dissipation.

THIS Talent of Parsimony, though made so commonly an Object of Ridicule by their Neighbours, is, in Reality, a Fund from whence they have drawn the most essential Resources ; not more to their own Emolument, than to the Surprise of those very Strangers who make so free with their Character, until by a nearer Acquaintance and Examination they are taught at last to reverence what their Ignorance led them at first to despise.

FROM this judicious Thriftiness they derive the chief Support of that invincible Industry, for which they are so deservedly celebrated beyond all the rest of Mankind. It is only by maintaining the strictest Alliance between both, they have succeeded in those prodigious Undertakings, wherein their Ingenuity is so remarkably distinguished by rendering the Untowardness and Perversity of Nature subservient to the most beneficial Purposes, effected almost against Expectation, and in the midst of numberless Discouragements, through Dint of the most obstinate Labour, and the most sagacious Management.

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SENSIBLE of the inexhaustible Energy of these united Qualities, they had the Courage to commence, and the Constancy never to recede, till they had perfected the stupendous Work of draining their Country of those immense Deluges of Water that had overflowed so large a Part of it for the Space of Ages.

BESIDE this truly noble and marvellous Atchievement, they have with no less Application and Fatigue, contrived to bring under their Subjection and Command, the Rivers and Seas that surround them, (formerly such perpetual Objects of Terror and Alarm) and to make them the principal Bulwarks on which they rely for the Protection and Safety of their Territories against the Danger of an Enemy. This they have done by covering their Frontiers and Cities with innumerable Sluices, through Means of which, at the shortest Notice, the most rapid Inundations are let in, and they become in a few Hours inaccessible.

THE same Attention and Diligence, assisted by a studious unremitting Oeconomy, accompanies them equally in Affairs of less, as well as in those of greater Moment; thus, among many other Instances, in order to save the Trouble and Cost of Freight that would ensue, were Ships and Men employed solely for such a Purpose, they direct the Importation of Marble by Way of ballasting their homeward bound Vessels from Italy; by which, not less dexterous than parsimonious Method, there is an Abundance both in their public and private Buildings, that justly surprises a Foreigner who reflects that no Quarries of it are found in Holland.

THIS saving Disposition has, however, no Influence over them, when they are aware it would prove detrimental to the general Interest; and to the particular Commendation of the Dutch, they perfectly know how to reconcile themselves to the most considerable and most burthensome Expences, when Times and Occasions demand them. Hence the vast Fleets and Armies they have at different Periods maintained.

tained. Hence the grand and copious Arsenals that abound in their Provinces; and which, till lately, were not equalled by the greatest States in Europe. And hence, what is much more amazing in a commercial Nation, that heroic Patience, with which they submitted to those prodigious Losses that were the foreseen and unavoidable Consequences of the Submersion of their Country, in order to preserve it from the French.

A MANLY Fortitude in the encountering chearfully with Difficulties, and in suffering Distresses without Despondency, is the peculiar Characteristic of that People, not less in their private than in their public Concerns. Proofs of this are numberless, in the Multiplicity of their arduous Enterprises to compass Establishments Abroad, in Places where less patient Adventurers had failed; and where the laborious Perseverance of Individuals was the only Groundwork of Success.

No Ways inferior to this unyielding Firmness in pursuing what they have once begun,

begun, is the Calmness and Resignation with which they meet a Change of Fortune; a Species of Magnanimity for which they have been long and deservedly celebrated. Strada, no Friend to their Cause, and who wrote at no great Distance from the Foundation of that Republic, under the Influence, and one may fairly say the Eye and Direction of Spanish Interest and Councils, could not yet refrain from doing them Justice on this remarkable Particularity; and in his History of the Low Country Wars, employs purposely a very circumstantial Passage to that Effect.

THIS Steadiness and Serenity of Mind, contributes to render them, perhaps, the easiest and most contented of Mortals. For as they are, at the same Time, constitutionally Strangers to those Transports of Exhilaration, so prevalent in other more sanguine and mercurial Nations, they are also less liable to be oppressed by that more than equal Counterpoise of Heaviness and Gloom, which is so commonly the Price of these short-lived Enjoyments.

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FROM these Causes, no People whatever possess more of that intellectual Happiness, consisting in *Æquanimity*; which, though it be not absolutely the superlative Degree of Felicity, yet, considering it is less liable to Interruption from the Casualties incident to human Nature, is, on that Account, a Situation far preferable to it.

WHEN we reflect on the Peace of Mind resulting from the Absence of those Passions, whose Objects are out of the Circle of ordinary Wants and Desires, we need not envy those whose Lot it is to compass their most delightful Gratifications; as on comparing the Inconveniencies arising from their Transitoriness, with the temporary Advantages they procure, we shall probably find the former to preponderate; and acknowledge, on due Examination, that a State of Tranquillity, equally exclusive of the Excesses of Joy or Grief, is, from the Vigour and Stability it confers on the Faculties, far more eligible than a Condition admitting alternately of much Pleasure and

much Pain ; of which the frequent Vicissitudes cannot fail to harass and convulse the Soul, and greatly disturb the Oeconomy of our whole System.

THE Fact is, the Dutch are very strict Observers of the Precept which Horace, who certainly was a competent Judge of Life, lays down as the prime Rule of Beatitude, in his Epistle to Numicius, which he begins by asserting, as a Truth repeated Experience had fully taught him, that,

Nil admirari prope Res est Una

Solaque quæ possit facere et Servare beatum;

Not to admire, an Art too little known, was yet the only Way to attain and preserve Happiness. Not that his Meaning was to deprive Merit of the Praise and Esteem it naturally commands, nor that Mankind should refuse themselves the Pleasure of Feeling and expressing their Satisfaction at those Objects that made agreeable Impressions on their Minds and Senses, but that they should not suffer their Attention to dwell so long on them, as to become enamoured of

of such Kind of Charms as it lay not in their Power to obtain the Possession of; nor by a thoughtless Condescension to groundless Notions, be induced to rate Things above their real Worth.

WITH this Maxim, though perhaps not in Speculation, yet in Practice, no People are more thoroughly acquainted than the Dutch; in whom few Objects are able to excite those Raptures of Admiration and Applause, that are so common elsewhere. They view Things, not indeed with absolute Indifference, but with a Coolness that sets no more than their just Value on them; and does not permit the Inspector to be hurried away with vain Opinions of their Transcendency. Hence, they are but little delighted with those far-fetched and dear-bought Modes and Devices of Luxury, for the Enjoyment of which so much Time and Expence are lavished by their nicer, and more curious and refined Neighbours; if such Epithets are applicable to those who have altered the Nature of Meriments and Diversions, and instead of con-

sidering and using them as Relaxations, have methodised and converted them into a Business.

FEW, therefore, among the Dutch, are captivated with these fleeting Gaieties, or care to bestow their Money on such Articles as are of no Solidity and Permanence. This is the principal Aim in all their Pursuits; and they are much more solicitous to secure the Means of living comfortably, than to launch into that Profusion and Parade, to which the Acquisition of Wealth is so powerful a Temptation in most other Nations; who seem to think Felicity imperfect, unless it is graced with collateral Embellishments, and surrounded by a Crowd of Witnesses. Far different herein from the Dutch, who seek it purely for its own Sake, and are very careless of those Concomitances of Splendor, that invite a Multitude of Gazers.

THIS is particularly evident, from the Simplicity of their Pastimes, which are mostly centered within the Circle of their domestic

domestic Intimates and familiar Acquaintance; and still more from the little Propensity to Costliness they shew in the Decoration of their Houses; the chief, and often the sole Merit of which is Neatness. Those architectural Ornaments and studied Regularities, on the minutest Observance of which the wealthy in other Countries are so scrupulously intent, and consider as so many Proofs of their superior Taste and Knowledge in the Art of Grandeur, are, in this Land of Parsimony, in no wise looked upon as making an essential and necessary Part in the Expences of even the most opulent Individuals; and are therefore appropriated only to public Structures.

HENCE on the Banks of those numerous Canals that diffuse Riches and Plenty throughout the Land, amidst the many Edifices that in a Manner crowd them, a rural Decency constitutes usually their utmost Beauty; and though they fully demonstrate the Inhabitants of the Towns in the Neighbourhood of which they situated, to be in prosperous Circumstances, yet they prove them, at the same Time, equally

conversant in the Science of Oeconomy, and not so desirous of living sumptuously, as agreeably. Nay, even in their most opulent and commercial Cities, it is not uncommon to see their greatest Merchants, *logés à l'étroit* as the French very properly express it, pent up in a narrow Habitation; and what is still more, quite satisfied with it. The modern Improvements in the commodious Distribution of Apartments, are but little consulted. The Conveniencies, so judiciously contrived in England, and the Elegancies so ingeniously devised in France, are almost totally neglected; and, in short, the System they observe in their Methods of Dwelling, is generally what a Person of Fortune, in either of those two Nations, would esteem far unequal to his Importance.

BUT it is in this very Absence of Pomp and Sumptuousness the Dutch have always prided themselves; and when we advert to the much greater Rarity of Failures and Bankruptcies among them, than among their more lively and magnificent Neighbours, we must allow their Notions approach

proach much nearer to Rectitude in these Matters, and are subject to very little Censure ; no more, indeed, than that of betraying too much Diffidence, and using too many unnecessary Precautions in the transacting of Business ; and of not availing themselves, with a proper Degree of Indulgence, of the Bounties Fortune has so unsparingly, and to their Praise be it added, so deservedly conferred on Numbers of them.

HOWEVER, as Errors of such a Nature can effect no Detriment, either to the private Welfare of those who commit them, or to that public of which they are Members, they should not be so severely animadverted on, as they have unjustly been by many inconsiderate Foreigners, who seem to forget the Consequences of that Spirit of Profusion which revels with so much Licentiousness among such Numbers of their Countrymen, whose Incomes but ill suit with their Extravagance : Consequences the more pernicious and difficult to prevent, as they have unhappily been made a Subject of national Boast.

THUS an Imitation of the Way of Life, led by the Grandees in a Nation, has been the ultimate View, and too faithful Practice not less of such as were labouring to accumulate a Fortune, than of those who had compassed their Wishes. And hence too, the Sinews of a State have been relaxed, not only by the Dissipation of those Funds in idle Pursuits, that ought to have been consecrated to the Purposes of Commerce, but also by the untimely Retreat from the Field of Business of many, the Date of whose Years, or the Situation of whose Circumstances, could afford them no Pretence to claim a Discharge from their Labours ; but who were impatient to figure in a Sphere, which Pride represented as more honourable, or Indolence pointed out as a Refuge from Fatigue.

WHATEVER Encomiums the Unthinking may bestow on the Conduct of such as chuse, in the Strength and Vigour of Life, to retire from the Hurry of worldly Concerns, it certainly proceeds in common,
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much more from a Spirit of Vanity, or a Passion for Ease, than from Moderation and Content ; the true Nature of which does not consist in a Renunciation of those Scenes of Activity we are engaged in for the Advancement of our Fortune, but in a chearful Acceptance of the Advantages resulting from them, though unequal to our Expectation, or inadequate to the Industry we have exerted in the Prosecution of our Schemes.

A CAPITAL Motive in Holland, why Persons whose Vocation is commercial, seldom think of a Retirement from Business, while their Continuation in it is attended with no Inconveniency, is that no Station in Society is productive of more Credit and Respect, than that of an Individual whose Diligence and Sagacity in Trade have raised him to Opulence. This gives him an Equality of Weight in all substantial Concerns, with the first of his Fellow-Subjects ; among whom the Sneers and Sarcasms, with which Envy or Levity, attack Meanness of Birth, and Obscurity of

of Family in most other Parts, so virulently and so unjustifiably, are but very little known or countenanced; and whose Favour and Esteem are the sure Rewards of a successful Application to his Calling.

THIS Consideration, which we may well suppose is never absent from the Minds of Men who daily see how rightly it is founded, proves doubtless, a powerful Incentive to Perseverance in so promising a Career; from which, accordingly, few of them ever depart, not even when their Ambition has met with its amplest Gratifications, and when in the Course of those Preferments, of which their indefatigable Industry laid the Foundation, they are at last become Men of prime Rank and Dignity in the State.

THE main Spring from whence flows this general Felicity of Endeavours to prosper, the happy Talent of avoiding unnecessary and useless Expences, is not only the Praise of the mercantile and laborious Classes, but equally of those whose native Patrimony

Patrimony is sufficiently considerable to procure them all Indulgences ; who, though exempted from the Solitude and Care requisite to raise one, are, nevertheless, observant of an Orderliness and Oeconomy in the Management of their Income, to which the Inheritors of Estates in most other European Countries, are too fatally Strangers. Whence it happens, that while these are squandering them without Measure, and often in the most ignominious Manner, those are enjoying a decent and reasonable Portion of all such Pleasures as leave no Sting behind, from the Recollection of their Cost, or of their Impropriety ; such Pleasures, indeed, as to Persons of a depraved Taste, or a wild Imagination, would hardly appear deserving of the Name ; but which, to a Life of Sobriety and Temperance, are of infinite Value by the Tranquillity and Ease that accompany their Pursuit, which has nothing in it of that Vehemence and Eagerness, which disquiet a Mind too much taken up with Pastimes, and apt to view them as Objects worthy of a serious Attention. Another happy Result

sult of this moderate and circumspectful Disposition, is, that while in England, in France, and in other Countries, where Scenes of Prodigality are frequent, Fortunes are perpetually going to wreck, and genteel Families are daily reduced to Indigence, in Holland, through a cautious and most laudable Abstinence from whatever has a Tendency to Carelessness and Profusion, no Waste is suffered in any Article, however slight and diminutive ; and by the continual Practice of this Savingness, on all Occasions, no inconsiderable Sums are laid up in the Course of Years out of middling Revenues, and a decent Provision is made, at the same Time, for all domestic Emergencies.

FROM these Premises it may with great Reason be asserted, that in whatever relates to the Management of pecuniary Affairs, the Dutch are indubitably the most completely expert of any People ; as to the Knowledge of acquiring Wealth, they unite the no less necessary Science of preserving it. No Country, therefore, can vie with theirs in the Number of those Inhabitants

habitants whose Lot, if not Riches, is at least a comfortable Sufficiency ; a Circumstance naturally arising from the universal Habit of Carefulness and Order, that characterises them so strongly ; and the Exercise of which is so diffusive and popular, that a contrary Turn of Mind is a Kind of Exotic but little known, and when discovered, singled out as highly censurable and defamatory.

HENCE, in the midst of a World of Taxes and Contributions for the public Exigencies, such as no other Country whatever experiences, and of which Foreigners, till acquainted with the interior Polity of this Republic, entertain no adequate Idea, they flourish and grow rich, and attain to a Degree of Prosperity few Parts of the World can boast, under such Discouragements, as other Nations would deem insupportable, even those subjected to the most despotic Governments.

THIS is a Truth, at which Lewis the Fourteenth was often struck with Admiration,

tion, when he compared the Burdens he laid on his People, to those the Dutch loaded themselves with, and found how disproportionably heavier the latter were; but the Elucidation of such a Fact was too dangerous to be attempted, and it remained a Mystery which his Courtiers, however clearly they might comprehend it, never durst explain to a Monarch, who had the Vanity to think his Administration as mild and conducive to the Interest of Individuals, as any that could possibly be framed; and whose Opinion, therefore, was not to be contradicted with Safety by such as meant to continue in his Favour.

THE Loss of this must certainly have been incurred by any Minister, whose Honesty and Courage might have prompted him to set forth the Causes that gave Birth to the Subject of his Wonder, by developing the different Kinds of Ascendancy, which the Enjoyment of political Freedom, or a State of absolute, unlimited Obedience, have over the human Mind; and by shewing how much the first elevates and inspires

spires it with Resolution to exert itself to the utmost, by the Prospect of that Security, which is the very Life of all our Efforts to thrive and ameliorate our Condition; and how much the second depresses it, and damps its Vigour and Endeavours, by the Reflexion on the Precariousness of our Situation, however prosperous and successful our Industry may have made it.

SUCH an Exposition of Facts, connected with, and deduced from Principles which none but Tyrants and their Abettors, will call in Question, would have accounted for the Possibility that ambitious Prince had such frequent Reasons to marvel at, that a State, whose Extent of Territory scarce amounted to a fifteenth Part of his Dominions, should yet dare bid him Defiance; that unsupported, abandoned, nay even assaulted with equal Injustice, and bad Policy, by another no less formidable Neighbour, they should have Strength enough to withstand his whole Power at Land, and prove so superior to him at Sea, as to oblige him to rely entirely on the Assistance of
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their only Rivals on that Element. He then would have discovered by what Means they were able to bear so considerable a Part in that glorious Alliance, which put a final Period to the Career of half a Century's Successes ; and by a Series of Victories, wherein they justly claimed a most honourable Share, destroyed his Fleets, and totally ruined his Marine Establishments ; and so decisively defeated and vanquished his Armies, that he had at last no other Resource left him but to implore the Clemency of his Enemies, by suing for Peace on the most humiliating Terms.

WELL, indeed, might he testify his Surprise, when he saw the Dutch, whom he ever affected to undervalue, and treat with Contempt and Scorn, maintaining in this celebrated Contention, one hundred and fifty thousand Men, and upwards of eighty Ships of the Line ; a Force, to support which, besides other weighty Contingencies, the Sums they levied were hardly inferior to the immense Charges occasioned by the prodigious Number of his Troops.

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WHEN a People emerge but occasionally from Obscurity, and only signalize themselves in a transitory Manner, such Events may be owing to the superior Abilities alone of those extraordinary Characters, which every Age and Nation sometimes produce. Thus the Genius of Epaminondas, gave the Supremacy over all Greece to his Countrymen, the Thebans; who, immediately on his Death, relapsed into their former Insignificancy. In the same Manner, Timoleon rendered the Syracusans, before and after him, the Prey of Tyrants, no less dreaded and invincible. In the last Century the Swedes, under Gustavus Adolphus, and in the Beginning of the present, the Russians, under Peter the Great, made both a Figure to which they were Strangers before, and have been ever since. Thus, in our own Days, an illustrious Monarch, through the indefatigable Exertion of the most amazing Capacity, has procured a Lustre to his Crown, and a Reputation to the military Virtues of his Subjects, which, being founded on his personal

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Talents only, and not owing to any peculiar Excellence in the Frame of their Government, are not expected to out-live him, unless a Successor of equal Merit should arise.

THIS transient Greatness of Empires and Nations, may also be formed by the fortuitous Concurrence of those favourable Accidents, which, without the Intervention of profound Policy, or heroic Actions, effect at once the Grandeur of a State. Thus, from the Marriage of Isabella of Castile, with Ferdinand of Arragon, and of their Daughter to the Heir of the House of Austria, together with the casual Discovery of America, proceeded the sudden and instantaneous Importance of Spain; which, while these Causes operated, took the Lead, and was the capital Agent throughout Europe; but on their Cessation, soon declined; and in Proportion to the Decrease of these adventitious Helps, gradually fell away to a Situation of Debility, that was accelerated by the Rulers of that Monarchy, mistaking the Sources of their former Power, and attributing it to the genuine intrinsic Strength
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and Spirit of the Nation ; whence they were led into Enterprises that quickly convinced them of the Inability of Spain, when dependent on the sole Vigour of its Government and People, to support and give Success to great Designs.

BUT, when a Country, long hidden from the Attention of the World, and intrinsically of the most diminutive Weight in the Scale of Politics, makes its Way through surrounding Obstacles ; and against all Expectation and Probability, maintains its Ground in Spite of the most powerful and inveterate Opposition ; when in the midst of Pressures of every Kind, it advances daily, by steady and uniform Steps, to Prosperity ; and arrives, at last, to a Degree of Might and Dignity superior, on Comparison of the Means, to that of every other Nation whatever ; when these Transactions are not limited to the Duration of a few Years, but afford Matter for the Annals of two Centuries ; when the Spirit and Wisdom from which they originated exist and flourish in full Force ; and there are no

other apparent Motives to apprehend the Downfall of this noble Fabric, but such as are drawn from the Frailty concomitant on all the Works of Man; when Facts of this Nature conspire in Favour of a People, then, indeed, it is no longer to the accidental Effulgence of the temporary Abilities of any Individual, or to the spontaneous Concourse of fortunate Casualties, that such admirable Effects are to be attributed. The Cause of them lies deeper, and rests upon a more durable Foundation, that of their constitutional Policy, which, like a radical Stock of Health and Soundness in the human Body, that infuses Alacrity and Firmness into all its Members, keeps in requisite Life and Motion, the various component Parts of the Commonwealth, by providing a due and adequate Measure of Action and Employment, suitable to the peculiar Disposition of Individuals; and by suffering none of their native Qualifications to lie uncultivated. This, the true Theory of Prosperity in all Countries, no public Administration has ever been more attentive in reducing to Practice, than that of Holland; of which it has always been the undeniable

undeniable Praise to pay the strictest Regard to every Maxim necessary for the common Welfare and Preservation.

ANIMATED with these laudable Views, they have been particularly solicitous in never losing Sight of that fundamental Principle of Felicity and Lastingness in all States, the Union of those two jarring Extremes, so difficult to reconcile in a free and opulent People, a Propensity to Peace, and an Aptitude to War. The Arts and Occupations appertaining to the first, no Government has ever given stronger Evidences of their cordially preferring to the last; as whenever they have taken up Arms, they have done it with quite other Motives than those of Ambition; and yet in this latter Province, their Behaviour has been such as fully to prove that their Inclination to Tranquillity was not owing to a Defect of Courage and Resolution to assert their Rights; in the just Prosecution of which, their Conduct and Bravery may be placed on a Level with those of any Nation whatever.

SUCH an equitable Temper in public Affairs, is a Merit which no other Republic, either ancient or modern, possess of any considerable Degree of Wealth and Power, could ever claim with equal Propriety. To say nothing of the Spartans and Romans, (with whom, as wholly military Nations, the Comparison might not seem proper) the Athenians and Carthaginians, both commercial Republics, and to which, as such, they bear the nearest Resemblance, were incessantly engaged in the most ambitious Projects; which, as they were totally foreign to the Spirit of their domestic Institutions, could not fail, by obstinately persisting in them, notwithstanding the severest Warnings, to occasion their utter Destruction. Thus a strange and unaccountable Rage for distant unnecessary Conquests, continually exhausted the Athenians in endless Enterprises Abroad; and prompted at last that fatal Expedition to Sicily, from whence may be dated the Commencement of their final Ruin. The Carthaginians pursued the same pernicious Courses;

Courses ; and instead of confining themselves to the Continent of Africa, where Nature seemed to offer them a Seat of Empire inaccessible to the only Power they had to fear, had they known how to avail themselves of their naval Strength and maritime Situation, they neglected these, in order to establish themselves in Spain ; a Country that became a perpetual Drain of their Men and Treasures, and by ingrossing their chief Attention, rendered them almost insensible to the imminent Dangers they were exposed to, by leaving their own Coast open and defenceless against those Invasions, the Consequences of which are so well known.

IN later Ages, the Vanity of becoming Conquerors, infatuated the Councils of several Italian Republics, and was the original Cause of the Dissolution of some ; and had, indeed, near effected the Downfall of Venice, the most powerful of any : So detrimental to the well-being of any Constitution founded on Commerce, is the Spirit of acquiring Dominion by Arms ;

as in Case of ill Success, a State whose Strength is not intrinsically considerable, runs the Risk of immediate Destruction; or, should its Designs prosper, is not much less distressed by the Efforts that were necessary to compass them.

ERRORS of this dangerous Nature, have never been, and will probably never be committed by the Dutch; whose Conduct, by a Close Adherence to the Rules of Moderation, has been always attended with its usual Reward, Security. Whenever they have been so pressed by their Enemies, that their Situation has become critical, most of the great European Powers have unanimously concurred in espousing their Cause, and have warmly interested themselves in their Defence.

WARNED by the Fate of those Nations that have fallen a Sacrifice to their Ambition, they have wisely followed the Advice which one of their most eminent Statesmen used often to inculcate, at a Season when their Prosperity was at its Height,
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and when their Successes by Land and Sea had rather elated some of his Collegues, to whom he frequently repeated the Ovidian Precept, *Medio tutissimus ibis*, the middle Way is safest.

DIRECTED by this salutary Spirit, they seem, from the whole Tenour of their Politics, to have considered the *Auream Mediocritatem*, that golden Mediocrity, which is the surest Road to Happiness in private Life, as not less applicable to Affairs of State, and equally effectual in promoting the public Felicity of Nations.

IN Conformity to this Principle, they have been more Intent on the Preservation of their own Possessions, than desirous of making Additions to them; and when at the Conclusion of the general War, that was terminated by the Treaty of Utrecht, an Enlargement was made of their Frontiers, their Safety was manifestly the sole Object they had in View; as the territorial Sovereignty remained to others in the fortified Towns, ceded to them as a Security
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against the Danger of so suspicious a Neighbourhood as that of France.

THE only Increase they have aimed at, has been that of Commerce and Navigation. As they owe to these their Strength and Glory, and depend on them alone, for a Continuance of the Figure they have hitherto made, they have employed their whole Care and Study in their Improvement. Sensible that the Moment these are lost, their Importance must immediately cease, and that the Loss of them will undoubtedly follow a Deviation from those Maxims of Industry, Perseverance, and Oeconomy, to the strictest Observance of which they are indebted for their Existence, they have made the most faithful Practice of them their unceasing Duty; and what, in the Judgment of Politicians, principally contributes to bestow perpetuity on a State, they have continued unalterably the same People, in every essential Respect, from their Origin to this Day; and remain inviolably attached to the primitive Plans of Proceeding, that enabled
their

their Forefathers to contend victoriously with the greatest Difficulties; and to exemplify, by the most illustrious Precedents that ever were exhibited, the Truth of those celebrated Mottos and Devices, which they assumed in those perilous Times, in order to inspire their People with Confidence and Intrepidity; by wisely persuading them that a Nation, however depressed in Circumstances, becomes invincible through Unanimity; and that Constancy and Diligence never fail to accomplish their Ends, however arduous and remote; and have always invariably proved that Indolence and Despondency, by placing Impediments above the Reach of our Endeavours and Resolution to overcome them, are, in the usual Course of Things, the most real Obstacles to our Designs.

WHEN these great Examples of Labour, Courage, and Sagacity, are cited before the Subjects of those Governments, whose Conduct exposes them so justly to Reproach, and are pressed upon them as Arguments of the superior Merit of the Dutch,

Dutch, it has sometimes been replied, that the Inhabitants of all Countries have their specific Virtues, as well as Vices, both which are inherent in their native Disposition, as particular Productions are appropriated to their Soil; thereby intimating that national Qualifications are the Gift of pure Accident, and bestowed, as it were, *Gratis*, without the Co-operation of those who possess them.

HOWEVER plausible this Notion may appear to the Superficial and Inattentive, it is demonstrably fraught with the most despicable Falshood; and is, in Fact, no more than a weak and futile Attempt to screen the Demerits of People, by representing them as the necessary Consequence of an unavoidable Fatality, which distributes good or bad Qualities in the same blind, indiscriminate Manner, as Fortune is depicted showering the Emblems of Happiness or Calamity on her numerous Votaries.

BUT the Truth is, that as personal Accomplishments flow from the Endeavours
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of those who have attained them, so the Merit of some Nations exceeds that of others in the same Proportion, and by the same Means that place some Individuals so highly above others.

PROOFS of this are notorious, when we compare the Misery prevailing in some Parts of the World, with the Prosperity that occasions so remarkable a Difference in others. Though it cannot be denied, the first proceeds from Indolence, and the second from Industry, yet, in Conformity to the above Opinion, Cavillers have pretended that the latter is a free Donation of Nature to Men, annexed to the Spot of their Nativity; as the former, by a Similitude of arguing, is a Mischance arising from the same Source; that consequently neither of them confer any Desert, or cast any Blame on the Character of such as are under their respective Influence; and tho' the one, like Deformity or Illness, may excite Pity and Commiseration, yet the other, like Health or Beauty, gives no room for that Praise which is founded on Esteem.

IN Answer to such groundless and frivolous Pretences, let us advert to the contemptible Situation of some modern Nations, and the respectable Figure made by others, the English and Dutch, for Instance, two People whose sound Policy and prime Eminence in all the Arts conducive to the well-being of a State, form the completest Contrast to the ruinous Conduct adopted by that Ignorance which presides over, and dictates the Operations of the former.

THEY were not, however, always in their present desirable Condition. There was a Time when they were absolutely Barbarians ; and this happened at that Period precisely, when the others were prosperous and flourishing.

IT is incontestible, from these very Vicissitudes in the Circumstances of both, that neither their good nor bad Fortune, was owing to the local Position of either, since according to such a Method of reasoning, it
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must have remained immutably the same to this Day.

THE prodigious Disparity therefore, now subsisting between them, must have proceeded primitively from another Quarter; and this, according to the concurrent Testimony of unquestionable Authorities, was no other than the Change of Temper and Inclinations in the Natives of those different Countries, brought about by Revolutions in their Forms of Government, which, by exalting or depressing their Minds, have inspired these with Vigour and Activity, and sunk those into Debility and Sloth.

FROM these authentic Facts, it plainly follows, that neither the Propensity nor Averseness to exercise our native Endowments and Faculties, are the spontaneous Result of particular Climes; but that they are both indisputably the Effects of quite other Causes, of such evidently as originate in a wise or an injudicious Administration.

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THERE needs no profound Disquisition to explain from whence proceeded so fortunate a Change for the Inhabitants of England and Holland. It was entirely due to the Sense and Penetration of those Patriots who had the Resolution to embrace and pursue more salutary Maxims and Measures, than had been current among their Ancestors; who dared, in Defiance of Danger, to attempt, and happily succeeded in framing, new Methods of ruling; and who, in order to perpetuate the Blessings they had given Birth to, were no less careful to infuse into their Countrymen, a Spirit of Application, Ingenuity and Firmness, from which it is hoped they will never degenerate.

THE Alterations so fatal to the others, are as easily deduced from a Decay of Activity and Zeal for the common Welfare in those who were at the Head of Affairs; an Evil that engenders a Spirit of Remissness and Negligence in what is most worthy of Care and Attention, which too soon spreads
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itself through all the Members of the Community, and terminates, at last, in a total Insensibility and Oblivion of those great Objects, an Inattention to which, by immediately affecting the general Interest of the whole, is so speedily found detrimental to that of Individuals in particular.

Thus it appears that political Rectitude in those who guide its Councils, is to a Nation, what a proper Education is to Individuals. As this forms them to laudable Habits, and by the Discovery and Improvement of their several Talents, lays a sure Foundation for their future Prosperity, the other maintains a strict Discipline in every Department, and superintends the various Dispositions of all who compose the Body of the State, in order to direct them to such Employments and Pursuits as may prove of universal Utility, and to teach them, as it were, the great and capital Science both of public and private Life, that of availing themselves of every Opportunity that offers for their Advantage.

It is no less apparent, from the same Reasons, that neither the Possession nor the Want of Abilities, ought to be attributed to any such Incident as that of Climate; and that the different Tribes into which the human Race is divided, participate an equal and impartial Distribution of the Seeds of all the essential and necessary intellectual Accomplishments, as well as of all the moral Qualifications, the natural Property of which is, either to fructify through Cultivation, or to perish through Neglect. Nothing therefore can be more absurd than to imagine they are locally produced like Plants and Vegetables, and confined, like these, within peculiar Limits.

SOME Advocates for this Opinion have sought to exculpate such of the southern Nations in Europe, as are conspicuously addicted to Idleness, by alledging that in Regions like theirs, so much exposed to the Influence of the Sun, the bodily, and in consequence the mental Powers are so heavily
oppressed

oppressed by the inclement Heat of the Weather, as to be rendered unequal to that laborious Perseverance in the Prosecution of Business, in which their northern Rivals so much excel them.

THE Speciousness and Fallacy of this Argument are soon, however, detected, by reflecting that this Spirit of Activity is not restricted to the Latitude of England and Holland, but is equally manifested in the Colonies these Nations have established in the East and West-Indies; Countries situated in the very Center of the torrid Zone, and where, notwithstanding the excessive Warmth, they exert themselves with the same unremitting Toil, and Assiduity, that characterise them in their native Country.

WHAT is still more striking and conclusive, in these very southern European Countries (to vindicate the Laziness of whose present Possessors, the above Allegations have been devised) the major Part of the Inhabitants, some Centuries ago, were Mo-

dels of Ingenuity, and remarkable for a stirring, active Disposition ; and it is no less worthy of Notice, that in their most southerly Districts are found the least slothful Race of Men, throughout the whole Land, at this Day.

BUT without having Recourse to the People of Europe, those of much hotter Latitudes will furnish a sufficient Number of Facts to invalidate so inconsiderate an Assertion. If we consult the Records of Antiquity, we shall find that Ægypt was the Nursery of the most industrious Mortals at that Time extant. The ancient and modern Chinese have a Right to the same Commendation. The Natives of Indostan, Persia, and Arabia, are no Abettors of Idleness ; and even in Mexico and Peru, Countries where Civilisation was far from being brought to Perfection, they were, according to undoubted Tradition, alert and laborious at the first Entrance of the Europeans into that Hemisphere.

NEITHER is Indolence restrained to the solar Climates alone. The northern Tracts of Asia and America clearly demonstrate the contrary ; and were it not an invidious Task, one might extend the Observation to some Parts of Europe at no less Distance from the Line.

FROM the foregoing Accounts and Remarks it may then, be justly inferred, that the Disparity between the Genius and Abilities of various Nations, is chiefly founded on the Nature of their Government, and the Capacity and Turn of Mind of those at the Helm, and very little owing to their accidental Situation on the Surface of the Globe. The Europeans who are settled in every Quarter of the habitable Earth, instance this continually, by carrying with them, wherever they go, and transmitting to their Posterity, born and resident Abroad, the Temper and Inclinations that prevail in the Mother-Country. But what confirms the Truth of this Inference in the most forcible Manner, and sets it

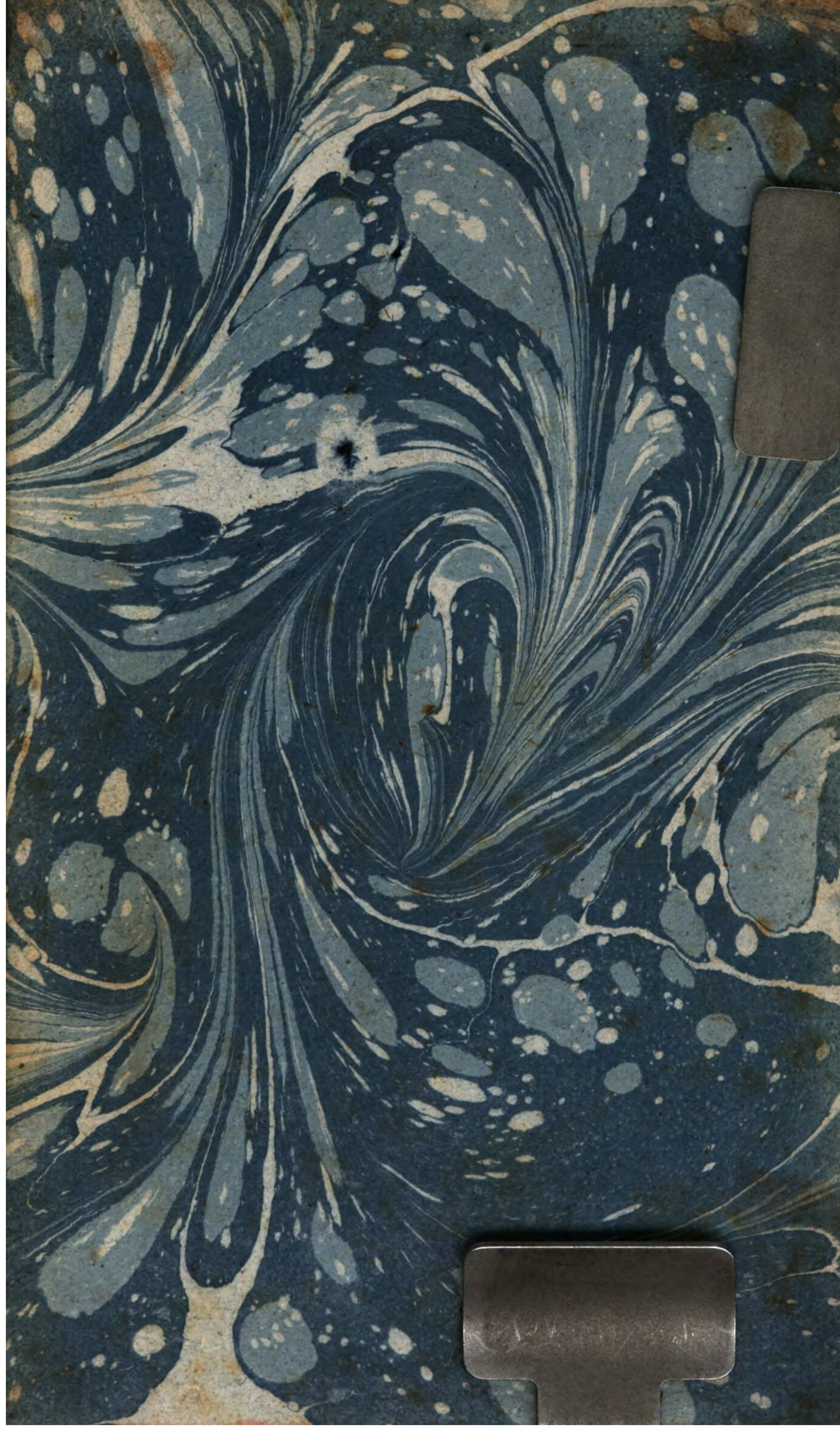
it in the fullest Light, whenever through Revolutions at Home, the Notions, Tenets, and Manners of a People, undergo an Alteration, the Change is immediately communicated, and diffused with uninterrupted Rapidity in their remotest Establishments.

ON Retrospection of the Premises, a Reflexion naturally occurs, which may serve as no improper Conclusion. Since the Constitution of a Country operates in all its Concerns, with so decisive an Influence, since the Evils that unavoidably flow from a bad one, are so heavy and severe, and the Benefits derived from a good one, are so great and important, how watchful and jealous of any Encroachments and Innovations ought they to be, whose enviable Lot it is to live under the Protection of Laws and Regulations, framed on the Principles of Liberty; which according to the unanimous Judgment of the Wise, grounded on the uniform Experience of all Ages, are alone calculated to secure the Happiness of Society.

F I N I S.







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